

STARS AND STRIPES®

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6 GIs killed in two days of Iraqi unrest



Clashes with cleric's loyalists on the rise in Sadr City

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U.S. forces battled Iraqi insurgents loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Tuesday in the Sadr City section of Baghdad. The fighting killed 36 people, including one U.S. soldier, and wounded more than 200 civilians. The soldier was one of six American troops who died in separate incidents around Baghdad.

Above: A fireman hoses down a burning U.S. Army transport truck after it was attacked by insurgents in Baghdad. No casualty figures were available from this attack.

Left: A militant keeps a homemade rocket launcher ready for U.S. soldiers in Sadr City.

AP photos



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Wine country wildfires: Firefighters hoped moist air would help them get the upper hand on a fire that has burned more than 12,000 acres of land in California's wine country. The moist air was expected Tuesday morning, which would help firefighters control the Sonoma County fire. Four homes, eight outbuildings and 12 cars have been destroyed, and about 40 residents have been evacuated from the area, about 60 miles north of San Francisco.

World

Serbia assassination trial: A former paramilitary leader indicted on charges of orchestrating the killing of Zoran Djindjic last year on Tuesday sought to disprove the charges, claiming he had been close to the slain Serbian prime minister. "I was in good relations with Djindjic," said Milorad Lukovic, the disgraced commander of an elite Serbian police unit. Indicted along with another 12 former commandos and underworld figures, Lukovic has denied any role in the death of Djindjic, who was shot in front of government headquarters in Belgrade in March 2003.

Milosevic trial: Slobodan Milosevic's court-appointed lawyers called the first witness in his defense case Tuesday, as the former Yugoslav president demanded he be handed back the right to represent himself before the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

Milosevic, who faces 66 charges of war crimes stemming from the Balkan wars in the 1990s, argued with the judges and accused his assigned defense attorney, Steven Kay, of trying to "dilute the testimony of the witness."

The first defense witness, Milosevic's former law professor Smilja Avramov, testified after her years as the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry's legal adviser before the wars that tore Yugoslavia apart and about Serbs' perception of the nationalist threats against them.

Avramov, a hard-line Serbian nationalist who favored the tough wartime policies of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, said she broke from Milosevic in the early 1990s because he was too accommodating to the international community seeking to end fighting between Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

Sudan hunger crisis: Seasonal rains and continued violence hampered efforts last month by the U.N. food agency to reach the hungry in Darfur, Sudan, where fighting involving rebels, government troops and militias believed backed by the government has created a humanitarian disaster.

"Perhaps the most serious obstacle of all is the sheer scale of the crisis," the World Food Program said in a statement Tuesday, adding that the scattering of more than a million people in need across an underdeveloped area the size of France "is one of the sternest challenges confronting WFP."

The agency said it had delivered food for nearly 1 million people in Darfur in August, short of its target of 1.2 million.

Serbia-Montenegro war crimes: The country's top official for relations with the U.N. war crimes court left Tuesday for The Hague, Netherlands, to offer assurances that Serbia-Montenegro would cooperate in bringing suspects to justice.



Sept. 11 retrial: Moroccan Mounir el Motassadeq, right, who is accused of helping to plot the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, an unidentified interpreter, center, and defense lawyer Gerhard Strate prepare for el Motassadeq's retrial in Hamburg, Germany, on Tuesday. In court Tuesday, a bank employee testified that el Motassadeq, 30, had power of attorney over one of the suicide pilot's bank accounts. Prosecutors allege that el Motassadeq used his control of Marwan al-Shehhi's account to pay the future hijacker's bills while al-Shehhi was preparing for the plot, helping him go undetected by authorities.

"We need to restore the tribunal's confidence," said Rasim Ljajic, Serbia-Montenegro's minister for ethnic minorities.

Speaking on state-run television before his departure, Ljajic said the government would cooperate in the search for the most wanted fugitive from the Balkan wars — Bosnian Serb wartime commander Ratko Mladic.

Fujimori extradition: A Supreme Court judge said Monday that Peru will not provide additional testimony requested by Japan to justify extradition of former President Alberto Fujimori to face allegations he authorized death squad massacres a decade ago.

Peru submitted the extradition request in July 2003, more than 2½ years after Fujimori fled Peru in November 2000 amid a spiraling corruption scandal.

Prosecutors allege Fujimori authorized two massacres of suspected rebel collaborators — a charge the former president denies.



Fujimori

U.N. Security Council: A permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council would allow Japan to contribute more to global peace and stability, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Tuesday.

Koizumi plans to argue for a council seat during an upcoming trip to the United Nations.

"Japan must think what it can contribute to the global peace and stability," Koizumi told reporters. "In order for Japan's ideas ... to be reflected in the world, it is better for Japan to have a say as a permanent member."

South Korea nuclear program: South Korea will send a delegation to the U.N. nuclear watchdog's headquarters in Austria

next week to explain an unauthorized nuclear experiment and pledge transparency in its nuclear operations, officials said Tuesday.

"The delegation will explain that the uranium experiment was conducted by only a few scientists for purely academic purposes, and the government will seek transparency on experiment procedures from now on," Son said.

"The delegation will say that the experiment was not big enough to be a violation of the treaty," Son said, referring to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, a global arms control measure.

China porn crackdown: Chinese makers and distributors of pornographic materials sent through the Internet, mobile phones and other communication devices will face penalties as severe as life in prison under new rules that took effect Monday.

The crackdown is part of a renewed campaign for greater control over the Internet by authorities, who have closed thousands of Internet cafes, stepped up surveillance and fortified filters aimed at shutting out objectionable material.

War on terrorism

Afghanistan fighting: Afghan security forces clashed with dozens of Taliban militiamen who raided a government office in a southern province, leaving one soldier and four of the rebel fighters dead, officials said Tuesday.

Two other Taliban fighters were killed and two captured in a separate clash with U.S. troops and Afghan government forces in another part of southern Zabul province.

In other fighting on Monday, Taliban opened fire on American and Afghan forces who were searching for militants in Son district, said Zabul Gov. Khial Mohammed. Two Taliban fighters were killed and two others — one of them wounded — were captured.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ My husband is with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four (NMCB 4). We have only heard that he made it there and was safe. That was about a month ago. Allot has happen since then. I hope this will reach him or someone that knows

him. BUC (SCW) G. W. Freese Your wife and children want to tell you we love and miss you greatly!! Keep safe and remember we are very proud of you. Terry, Nora and Clayton Freese

★ Thank you for your dedication and hard work. It isn't everyday I get to thank a hero but I am so grateful for your service to this country and just wanted to let you know. Be safe and come home soon. You're in my thoughts every day. Marla S. La Mesa, CA

6 GIs killed in two days of unrest in Iraq

Fighting heats up in Baghdad nabe; at least 36 killed

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops battled Shiite militiamen loyal to rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City on Tuesday in fierce fighting that killed 36 people, including one U.S. soldier, and wounded more than 200 civilians.

The fighting in Sadr City erupted when militants attacked U.S. forces carrying out routine patrols, killing one American soldier, according to U.S. Army Capt. Brian O'Malley.

The soldier was among six American troops who died Tuesday in separate incidents in the Baghdad area. The latest deaths brought to 997 the number of U.S. servicemen who have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count based on Defense Department records, AP reporting from Iraq and reports from soldiers' families.

A senior Health Ministry official, Saad al-Amili, said a total of 35 people have been killed and 203 injured in the Sadr City clashes.

An Sadr spokesman in Baghdad, Sheikh Raed al-Kadhimi, blamed "intrusive" American patrolling for provoking the fighting.

"Our fighters have no choice but to turn fire and to face the U.S. forces and helicopters pound-



Supporters of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr train their rocket-propelled grenade launchers at U.S. positions in Sadr City, Baghdad, on Tuesday, during a battle that killed 36 people, including a U.S. soldier.

ing our houses," al-Kadhimi said in a statement.

Late Tuesday, the militia announced a unilateral cease-fire but said it would fight back in self-defense. It was unclear whether the statement had any meaning since the militia routinely defends its actions as legitimate self-defense.

O'Malley, the U.S. Army captain, said he was unaware of the cease-fire offer but that the area was quiet in the early evening.

"We only fire when we are fired at, but we will not stop our

patrols or withdraw from our positions," he said.

During the fighting, U.S. warplanes flew over the sprawling neighborhood — home to some 2 million people. American tanks, their turrets spinning, deployed in key intersections. Ambulances with sirens wailing rushed the wounded to hospitals as plumes of heavy black smoke rose over the mainly Shiite neighborhood.

Roads leading to the area were blocked by the fighters using rocks and tires. By afternoon, most stores in the neighborhood were shuttered.

The violence was not limited to the Shiite enclave. Earlier Tuesday, a bomb exploded near the convoy of the governor of the Baghdad region, killing two people. Gov. Ali al-Haidri escaped injury. Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdel Rahman said.

Al-Sadr aides said the fighting broke out after talks with interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's government stalled. Those talks followed a deal last month to end fighting between U.S. troops and al-Sadr's forces in Najaf.

The government had refused

U.S. airstrikes target Fallujah

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. warplanes launched airstrikes and tanks fired into the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Fallujah on Tuesday, the U.S. military said.

Marine spokesman Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson said insurgents attacked American positions outside the city and that U.S. forces retaliated with strikes on suspected militant hide-outs inside Fallujah. He said warplanes fired several missiles and that artillery units and tanks were also in action.

He said there were no reports of American casualties.

Witnesses said loud explosions were heard throughout the city late Monday, a hot bed of Sunni insurgents bent on driving coalition forces from the country.

al-Sadr's demands to keep American troops out of the Baghdad Shiite neighborhood.

The upsurge in clashes began with a suicide car-bombing Monday that killed seven U.S. Marines and three Iraqi soldiers near Fallujah.

A group linked to Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi — Tawhid and Jihad — posted a statement Tuesday on a militant web site claiming responsibility for the attack, describing it as "a martyr operation" that targeted American soldiers and their mercenary apostate collaborators from the Iraqi army.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 997 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count based on Defense Department records, AP reporting from Iraq, and reports from soldiers' families.

The Defense Department's most recent published count, as of Tuesday, shows 987 U.S. servicemen died. Of those, 741 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 10; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 838 U.S. servicemen have died — 621 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday. There was no update provided Monday because of Labor Day.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Seven Marines were killed Monday in a car bomb attack near Fallujah, Iraq.

■ One soldier from the Army's 13th Corps Support Command was killed when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb near the Iraqi capital late Monday.

■ One Task Force Baghdad soldier died early Tuesday from wounds sustained from a roadside bombing against his convoy a day earlier in Baghdad.

■ Another soldier with Task Force Baghdad died Monday from wounds sustained during an unspecified attack in Baghdad.

■ A second soldier from the 13th COSCOM was killed in a roadside bomb attack near Qayyarah, just north of Baghdad.

■ A third Task Force Baghdad soldier was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade strike during clashes in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City early Tuesday.

■ One soldier from the 89th Military Police Brigade was killed by small-arms fire Tuesday in west Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Less-coercive interrogations producing better intelligence

BY JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military is reaping more high-quality intelligence tips from Iraqi prisoners than ever since it jettisoned several coercive interrogation techniques after the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal in May, the American general in charge of Iraqi prisons said Monday.

The number of tips on insurgent operations or on the structure and financing of anti-U.S. guerrilla bands has increased 50 percent since January, Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller said in a briefing with reporters.

It is unclear what effect the intelligence has had on the insurgency. Between July and August, when Miller cited an increase in actionable tips from 200 to 325, rebel ambushes on U.S. forces grew 70 percent, from 1,600 to 2,700, according to U.S. military figures. Those attacks do not include sustained battles, such as the three weeks of fighting in Najaf last month.

After the revelations of prisoner abuses by U.S. soldiers in the spring, the military brought in new teams of Army Military Intelligence interrogators at Abu Gharaib and other U.S.-run prisons. Interrogators were told to change their methods, said Miller, who was in charge of the Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba and now runs U.S. detention facilities in Iraq.

Soldiers are no longer allowed to "soften up" prisoners by forcing them into so-called stress positions, standing or squatting in uncomfortable poses for long periods. Also banned is the practice of exposing inmates to extreme temperatures, or withholding food or denying sleep.

New interrogation teams switched to incentives-based interrogations taught by a veteran Chicago Police homicide detective who is an Army reservist, Miller said.

The new methods are supposed to instill trust in insurgent suspects questioned for their knowledge on attack plans, locations of arms caches and leaders, as well as financing and recruiting methods, the general said.

U.S. combat teams build operations on tips from interrogation transcripts within a day or even hours of prisoner questioning, Miller said.

Intelligence analysts also painstakingly cross-check confession tips with intelligence databases to verify them. Miller said inmates also are interrogated using polygraph exams.

Ironically, military and U.S. government reports documenting the causes of the Abu Gharaib abuses assert that Miller urged tougher interrogation techniques be used in Iraq last year.

The Pentagon sent Miller to inspect interrogation procedures last summer, and he recommended using the same techniques on prisoners in Iraq that were employed on al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo. Miller's intent was to boost the quality of intelligence needed to halt the growing anti-U.S. insurgency.

Miller was sent back to Iraq after the abuse scandal broke and pictures emerged of U.S. soldiers stripping prisoners naked, threatening them with dogs and forcing them to simulate sexual acts. He was put in charge of detention operations and overseeing the Army's reversal of the harsh methods he had advocated only months earlier.

Myers, Rumsfeld defend approach to militants

Officials contend there is no safe haven for enemy insurgents in Iraq

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — While U.S. troops in Iraq no longer patrol what is now being called "no-go zones," volatile areas in hotly contested cities such as Ramadi, Najaf, Fallujah and Samarra, the absence of forces has not created a safe haven for insurgents, the Pentagon's top military leader said Tuesday.

Declining to provide specifics because it might reveal operational secrets, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, told reporters there were logical reasons behind decisions to keep U.S. forces from going after pockets of enemies, reasons

topped by arrangements with the interim government that would leave that responsibility to the new Iraqi security forces once they are prepared to take over, Myers said.

"They're all a little bit different in terms of the strategy we're using, where some of the insurgents are not able to travel outside of those communities," Myers said during a Pentagon press briefing with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "There are places where we do not conduct patrols, we don't conduct joint patrols, but they're all going to be dealt with on priorities developed by the Iraqi government and by coalition forces."

This summer, Marines with-

drew from active patrols in Fallujah as cease-fire agreements were brokered between top U.S. military leaders and governing council members.

There are now about 95,000 adequately trained and equipped Iraqi forces who could take over some of the patrolling missions once done by U.S. forces, Myers said. That number is down from the 206,000 number the Pentagon touted as available earlier this year — before realizing they were poorly trained and equipped. By mid-2005, Rumsfeld said the number should go to more than 200,000.

As of Tuesday, some 997 U.S. servicemembers have died since the start of the Iraq war, accord-

ing to a count by The Associated Press based on Defense Department figures.

Rumsfeld sidestepped a question on the fact that the 1,000 U.S. casualty milestone was near. "A single loss of life is large and it's a life that's not going to be lived," he said.

He noted that the death toll of victims of terrorism — including the some 3,000 lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — has far dwarfed 1,000.

Rumsfeld blamed "a combination of terrorists, former regime elements, and criminals" for the continuing violence in Iraq.

In the single deadliest attack against American troops in four months, seven U.S. Marines and

three Iraqi soldiers were killed on Monday when a car bomb exploded near their convoy on the outskirts of Fallujah, west of Baghdad. Six American soldiers were later killed in attacks in and around Baghdad, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

Rumsfeld defended the U.S. plan of operation in Iraq against criticism that the war plan was flawed and that the United States and its coalition partners had severely underestimated the enemy.

"No war plan survives the first contact with the enemy," Rumsfeld said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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British soldier charged in death of an Iraqi civilian

BY JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — British authorities for the first time charged a soldier with murder in the death of a civilian in Iraq, indicting the man Tuesday in a civilian court after his commanding officer blocked a court-martial.

Trooper Kevin Williams, who served in Iraq with the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, was charged in the death of Iraqi civilian Hassan Said, who was killed in Ad Dayr near Basra in southern Iraq on Aug. 3, 2003.

Attorney General Lord Goldsmith said in a written statement to Parliament that he had been asked by the Ministry of Defense to review the case "after charges were dismissed by the soldier's commanding officer. This meant the case could not be tried by court-martial."

There was no immediate explanation from the Ministry of De-

fense for the commanding officer's decision.

Williams was freed on bail following a brief appearance at Bow Street Magistrates' Court. His next court appearance was set for Sept. 28.

No British soldiers have been charged with deaths related to the Iraq war.

The British government has previously expressed regret for the deaths of Iraqi civilians. It is fighting a lawsuit by the families of six Iraqis allegedly slain by British troops. The families have gone to the High Court in London seeking to force an independent investigation.

The death of Hassan Said is not among those cases.

The government says it has paid more than \$258,000 in compensation to settle 106 cases of death, injury and property damage in Iraq. Another 537 claims have been denied, while 149 remain under investigation.

Efforts to free French hostages



French diplomatic envoy, Hubert Colin de Verdiere, center, thanks Islamic cleric Abdul Salam al-Kubaisi, Tuesday as they leave a meeting at Umm al-Qura mosque in Baghdad. The French ambassador to Iraq, Bernard Bajelet, left, and Colin de Verdiere met with leaders of a Sunni clerical organization with alleged ties to insurgents to discuss the fate of two French reporters held hostage in Iraq. Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot disappeared Aug. 20 on a trip to the southern Iraqi city of Najaf.

New abductions in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Two Italian women working for an aid agency in Iraq have been kidnapped, the agency said Tuesday. Gunmen in olive green uniforms broke into the group's Baghdad offices in Baghdad and took the women along with two Iraqis, neighbors said.

The attack was only the second known kidnapping of foreign women since the wave of kidnappings began earlier this year. The first involved a Japanese aid worker captured in Fallujah April along with two other Japanese, who were all released a week later.

The Rome headquarters of the agency, "A Bridge To..." identified the two Italian women as Simona Torretta, the head of the Baghdad office, and Simona Pari, both 29. The two Iraqis were identified as Raad Ali Aziz and Mahnaz Bassak.

Iraq contract to go back up for bid

WASHINGTON — Halliburton Co.'s multibillion dollar contract for work to support U.S. troops in Iraq will be put back up for bids, according to a published report.

The Wall Street Journal said Tuesday an internal

Army memo indicates the move is planned within months. The company, formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney, has come under intense scrutiny amid allegations of overcharging and poor accounting.

The value of the contract, to feed and house U.S. troops in Iraq, is valued at up to \$13 billion. The Journal quoted a Halliburton spokeswoman as saying the move was expected and that its subsidiary KBR may bid again for parts of the work.

Military headquarters could move

WARSAW, Poland — The headquarters of the Polish-led multinational force in Iraq could move from the archaeological site of Babylon to the Qadisiyah province, the Polish military said Tuesday.

The move is in response to concerns by the Iraqi authorities that the presence of troops may damage the ruins of the historic site of Babylon, where some 6,500 Polish-led international troops are stationed at Camp Babylon — headquartered in a former Saddam Hussein palace.

Poland sent troops to the invasion of Iraq and now commands the multinational force — including some 2,400 Poles — in south-central Iraq.

From The Associated Press

Marine missing in Iraq returns to his N.C. unit

BY JAMES GORDON MEEK
New York Daily News

WASHINGTON — U.S. Marine Capt. Wassef Ali Hassan has returned to his unit in North Carolina, although his mysterious abduction by Islamic militants in Iraq has yet to be publicly explained.

Hassan, 24, initially was accused of deserting, but after his hostage video aired on Arab satellite TV, his status was changed to "captured."

Marine Corps officials are "all over the map" over whether they believe Hassan's story that he escaped execution, said one military source close to the case. He said there is a lingering suspicion that the videotape threats to be-

head Hassan were an elaborate hoax.

The skeptics wonder how he got from Iraq to his native Lebanon 500 miles away — where his wife lives — without a scratch.

The Muslim Marine spent all of August on leave with his family in Salt Lake City before rejoining the antiterrorist 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Aug. 30, officials said.

Hassan is expected soon to be declared fit for duty, the military source said.

But he still could face desertion charges as the probe continues into how he was kidnapped from a secure base in Iraq and whether he was ever in captivity, sources said.

"I still feel like every year is exciting."

Tom Smith, principal of Alconbury High School in England



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

First-grader Meghan Sampson, center, chooses a classmate to answer a question Tuesday as they go over classroom rules with teacher Cheryl Williams on the first day of school at Mannheim Elementary in Germany.

DODDS pupils back in the saddle again

Vacation is over as classes start

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

Summer came to a screeching halt Tuesday morning as 47,500 children woke up early for the first time in months and frantically prepared for school.

Though each Department of Defense Dependents Schools had different first-day events, many pupils began the school year re-acquainting themselves with the school grounds and old friends, and getting to know their teachers.

Outside Alconbury Elementary School at RAF Alconbury, England, children lined up by class waiting for the first day of the school year to begin.

Standing in front of the line of first-graders was John Flannery, 6, son of Maj. Jerry Flannery and his wife, Misty.

Like many other children across Europe, John "was a little nervous but excited to see his friends," according to his mother.

At Mannheim Elementary School in Germany, the new principal, Shawne Cryderman, spent part of the first day getting to know parents and teachers.

Cryderman, who has been with DODDS for the past 25 years and in administration for the past 13



First-grade teacher Cheryl Williams goes over classroom rules with her pupils.

years, briefed parents and pupils on the "winds of change" that are blowing through her school. The wind involves children always coming first and schools helping when military or family life gets tough.

Most Mannheim pupils came armed with necessary school supplies, but those who forgot some of the items were allowed a one-day pass.

"All the kids are going to be accepted today," Cryderman said.

SEE SCHOOL ON PAGE 7

New year, new policies

BY TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Ah, the devil is in the details, even at the schoolhouse.

Teachers and administrators at Neubrucke Elementary were explaining new policies and fine-tuning enrollments Tuesday as several Department of Defense Dependents Schools initiatives come on line for 2004/2005 at all schools at U.S. military bases across Germany.

It's all part of life at small elementary schools trying to comply with new DODDS requirements for full-day kindergarten and decreased class sizes.

But some details hadn't filtered down to parents, such as Staff Sgt. Richard Kobelt and Angela Kobelt, who said they weren't clear why their son Matthew, 5, wouldn't be starting class until Sept. 13, rather than going Monday to a kindergarten class that's split between first-graders and kindergarten.

"It's tough for Matthew to watch on the sidelines" as brother Christopher, a fifth-grader, and sister Christiana, who's in seventh grade, head to school, Angela Kobelt said.

By contrast, Katy Alden, 5, started kindergarten Tuesday, going to a multiage class

SEE CLASS ON PAGE 7



Jennifer LeVier, a multiage first- and second-grade teacher at Mannheim Elementary School, smiles as she welcomes pupils lining up for class on the first day of school.

'Senioritis' doesn't have to be a terminal illness

Students urged to keep up course work

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

RAF ALCONBURY, England — Teachers and administrators at DODDS schools are guarding against a potentially dangerous malady that appears every year about this time.

"Senioritis" can crush the hopes of the most competent teenager, turning the best-laid plans for the future into dust.

In 2001, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige said, "Instead of meeting new challenges in the classroom, too many high school students are drifting through their senior year."

Brenda Coffield, school transition specialist for the Installation Management Agency-Europe in Heidelberg, Germany, said, "I've experienced it in more than one case."

Coffield, a longtime school counselor who has worked in partnership with Department of Defense Dependents Schools, said seniors who have been admitted to a col-

lege decide to coast through their final year of high school. They take easy classes or don't study for the hard ones.

Suddenly, that college admission that seemed a sure bet has become a long shot.

"They forget. These schools want to see an end of the first semester transcript," said Coffield in a telephone interview. They'll also want evidence at the end of the year.

The University of Illinois sends a letter to accepted students warning, "We do rescind admission when we have high expectations for our students are compromised by a bad senior year."

Nadia King, counselor at Alconbury High School at RAF Alconbury, said she lets seniors know that coasting is not advisable.

"I tell them, it has been proven that students who took an easy senior year flunk out of college," she said.

Tom Smith, principal at Alconbury High School, said, "[Senior]

year is the most important year since first grade."

His school and others in DODDS, he said, ensure there will be no "senior slump." Long before their final year of high school, students have drawn up a six-year plan that charts their course over that time.

If they stick to that, Smith said, they will have no worries.

Three of the 22 members of the Alconbury class of 2005 said they plan to have fun during their final year of high school, but they realize there is still work to do.

"It's going to be hard work," said Crystal Woideck. "I took hard classes. I need to get ready for college."

Caitlin Laingen said she has most of her requirements behind her and is taking a variety of classes, looking for something that strikes her fancy.

"It's an experimental year," she said. "I'm not sure what I want to do in college."

She wants to enjoy the extracurricular part of high school, she



PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

From left, Crystal Woideck, Caitlin Laingen and Katie Thompson are seniors this year at Alconbury High School, RAF Alconbury, England. All three say they will enjoy being seniors, despite the hard work and the expectations.

said, but she intends to keep her eye on the prize.

"It's nice to know that, [after] all the hard work I've done, I'm going to have a diploma to show for it," she said.

Katie Thompson said she knows, too, that being a senior carries a bit more responsibility.

"You feel like you are maturing. I feel like I'm more capable," she said. "You realize you have to make good decisions because everyone is watching."

Smith said the senior year is not only important for students with college in their future. The workplace has changed, too, he said, and a good high school education is also needed there.

"The kinds of knowledge that kids need [are] vastly different," he said.

Coffield agreed with that. She said employers are looking for the same things as college admission officers.

For that reason, she said, the senior year remains a bad time for a student to get lazy.

"You know what I tell them. 'Look at it like you are practicing for a sport,'" she said. "You wouldn't take a year off from practice for a sport."

"You have to continue to practice what you want to be good at."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensen@mail.militarypress.com

School: Parents also ready

SCHOOL, FROM PAGE 6

"No child is going to be stopped the first day of school for a silly mistake an adult made."

Some of these silly mistakes included forgetting to register the child, not knowing the child's class, not getting school supplies, or not buying school uniforms.

"Mommy forgot the book bag and Mommy forgot to pay for lunch," said Sgt. 1st Class Margie Crawford of the 510th Personnel Services Battalion and mother of second grader Jamie Crawford.

"I was so excited with getting her back to school that I forgot some of the little things. Now I'll have to rush to the PX to pay for lunch and pick up some school supplies." The Army and Air Force Exchange Service runs the school lunch program and parents can buy lunch coupons at the PX.

Jamie knew not to sweat the small stuff, having already learned the first-day ropes during her previous years in school. But younger and more saucer-eyed pupils began sweating a little

when they were separated from their parents and taken to their classrooms.

Joung-Ae Hill, mother of Allison, 5, said though her daughter has an older sister in school, she was still worried about her youngest beginning kindergarten.

"I'm kind of nervous and in a way I'm excited," she said. "I'll be able to do more things that I have to do during the day, plus I'd like to see how well she does in school."

Even at high schools, where most students have pushed past those first-day jitters, there was a sense of anticipation Tuesday.

"I still feel like every year is exciting," said Alconbury High School Principal Tom Smith, who began his 39th year as an educator Tuesday.

The enrollment at Alconbury will be about 210, resulting in the kind of small-school atmosphere Smith said he likes because it allows him to know every child.

"I know when grandma visits and when the dog dies," he said.

Reporter Ron Jensen contributed to this report.

Class: Changes for new school year

CLASS, FROM PAGE 6

with both kindergartners and first-graders, said her mother, Dr. Carol Jorin, who called the mixed class concept "an excellent idea."

The differing schedules for children in the same grade at the same school allow small schools such as Neubuckee, with only 185 total enrollment, to offer full-time kindergarten — now mandated by DODDS.

Matthew will have an experience very different from Katy — his teacher will visit him at his home this week, a part of the DODDS full-day kindergarten initiative.

Crystal Newby, who will be Matthew's kindergarten teacher at Neubuckee, will spend 20 to 30 minutes at each child's home getting to know the pupil and the family.

The idea is to alleviate the child's separation anxiety at leaving parents for school, Newby said. Kindergartners benefit from home visits by feeling more at ease with a teacher who's no longer a "stranger," but a person who came to their home; and teachers benefit by being able to draw on personal details about pupils' lives, Newby said.

Both Katy and Matthew's parents say their children are ready for school. It's up to DODDS officials to mix and match to get representative classes while trying to keep kindergarten through third-grade classes at a target of 18 children, said

Beverly Erdmann, instructional systems specialist, early childhood education, at DODDS' Bavaria District Office in Kitzingen.

The intent is for those classes to be a "typical" classroom in that they're a mix of genders, abilities and other pupil characteristics, arranged by school counselors, she said.

The new school year is the fifth and final year for implementation of two major initiatives, said Frank O'Gara, spokesman at DODDS headquarters in Wiesbaden. They are:

■ The reduced pupil/teacher ratio initiative calls for a target ratio of no more than 18 pupils per teacher for kindergarten through third grade, O'Gara said.

■ The full-day kindergarten initiative established full-day programs at all elementary schools. Only Aviano, Italy, will not offer the program, because of construction delays, O'Gara said.

A related — though separate — initiative is multiple classrooms, where mixed-age groups of children remain with the same teacher for several years, a teaching philosophy increasing in popularity in the United States, O'Gara said. Children are randomly selected and balanced by age, ability, special-needs children and gender. These groupings are designed to benefit pupils, not for reasons of economics, curriculum, or convenience, according to the DODDS Web site.

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IN THE WORLD

Rebels hit by Israel

At least 14 dead at Hamas camp

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli helicopters attacked a Hamas training camp early Tuesday, killing at least 14 militants and wounding 30 others in one of the deadliest airstrikes since fighting broke out four years ago.

The attack came a week after Hamas suicide bombers blew up two buses in the Israeli city of Beersheba, killing 16 people.

In an unusually strong statement, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia warned that that airstrike would bring Hamas retaliation, which he said would be "justified."

"No crime goes unpunished," Qureia said of the Israeli attack at a meeting of the Palestinian Cabinet. "For sure there will be retaliation."



Palestinian mourners pray in Gaza City over the bodies of some of 14 Hamas militants killed in an Israeli missile strike on Tuesday.

ation, and the retaliation will be justified if it happens."

Hamas, which has carried out dozens of deadly attacks inside Israel, vowed revenge. Hours after the attack, Palestinian militants fired mortars and homemade rockets at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and the border town of Sderot. One Israeli in Sderot was slightly wounded in a rocket attack, rescue officials said.

The army said it struck a field where "senior Hamas terrorists"

had trained militants to fire mortars and rockets. In the past month, Hamas assembled a large bomb and a suicide bomber's explosives belt at the training camp, the army added.

In Gaza City, children stayed home from school Tuesday and shops remained closed in a sign of mourning.

Some 30,000 people, including dozens of gunmen from Hamas and other militant groups, joined a funeral procession Tuesday in Gaza City. As militants fired machine guns into the air, the crowd screamed for revenge.

Putin denies policy link to terror acts

BY BURT HERMAN
The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Mourners carried caskets, wreaths and once-cherished toys to the fast-growing town cemetery for a third day of burials in this southern Russian town on Tuesday, and Russian President Vladimir Putin denied a link between Russia's policies in Chechnya and the hostage-taking that claimed more than 350 lives.

In an interview late Monday with foreign journalists and academics, Putin again rejected Western calls for negotiations with Chechen rebel representatives, Britain's Guardian newspaper reported.

"Why don't you meet Osama bin Laden, invite him to Brussels or to the White House and engage in talks, ask him what he wants and give it to him so he leaves you in peace?" the Guardian quoted Putin as saying sarcastically.

"You find it possible to set some limitations in your dealings with these bastards, so why should we talk to people who are child-killers?"

Putin said foreigners should have "no more questions about our policy in Chechnya" after the attackers shot children in the back, and said the Chechen cause was aimed at undermining all of southern Russia and majority-Muslim regions of the country.

He also said his government would conduct an internal investigation but not a public one — warning that a parliamentary probe could turn into "a political show."

Two opposition politicians had called Monday for an investigation, including into the questions of whether the authorities had prior information about planned terrorist attacks, and what the government was doing to stabilize the situation in Chechnya.

Beslan's streets were crowded with funeral processions Tuesday.

At the muddy cemetery, where grave-diggers have opened up two new tracts over the past three days, relatives opened the tiny coffin of 8-year-old Vasily Reshetnyak, touching his forehead and kissing him goodbye. One of his favorite toys, a red car, was placed alongside the body.

A Russian Orthodox priest chanted prayers as the coffin was lowered into the grave, under a cross made of metal pipes. A picture of the boy, with bright blue eyes, was placed nearby.

In Vladikavkaz, the North Ossetian capital about 18 miles north of Beslan, hundreds of people gathered on central Freedom Square to protest terrorism and to castigate local authorities for failing to prevent last week's tragedy.

Countdown to election: Candidates have 30 days to woo Afghan voters

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Campaigning for Afghanistan's first direct presidential election began Tuesday, a crucial step in the nation's troubled transition to democracy after the fall of the Taliban nearly three years ago.

Interim leader Hamid Karzai and his 17 challengers have 30 days to sway some 10.6 million Afghans registered for the vote. Key issues are the snail's pace of reconstruction, enduring poverty and fragile

security.

No big rallies marked the low-key start of the campaign. Yet the outcome could be pivotal for a country still awash with guns, riven by ethnic animosities and mired in poverty.

Masooda Jalal, the only woman in the field, opened with a fiery appeal to widows at a U.N.-subsidized bakery in a war-scarred district near the capital's zoo. About 50 women, almost all veiled, clapped wildly and prayed for their "sister" under a tree in the yard as she took to

task the country's warlords, some of whom are also candidates.

"Those people who betrayed you and destroyed your homes and who killed your loved ones, they have no place in my government," said Jalal, who wore a headscarf.

Karzai, strongly backed by the United States, is considered the favorite to become the first popularly elected head of state.

But the bewildering field of candidates

and the tribal reflex that fueled more than 20 years of conflict could split the vote so widely that the incumbent is forced into a runoff.

Officials say a second round could delay the result until November, stretching the nerves of security forces bracing for violence from Taliban-led militants.

A dozen election workers have been killed in shootings and bombings so far, and the capital is on edge after a car bomb on Aug. 29 killed at least seven people at a U.S. security firm.

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IN THE STATES

Analysts project record \$422B deficit this year

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Congressional Budget Office projected Tuesday that this election-year's federal deficit will hit a record \$422 billion, a shortfall that would be smaller than analysts predicted earlier this year.

The estimate by Congress' nonpartisan budget experts immediately provided political fodder for both parties in the final two-month stretch of the presidential and congressional campaigns.

Focusing on a \$55 billion improvement since the budget office last estimated this year's shortfall in March, Republicans hailed the figures as good news.

This report underscores that our policies are working to create a stronger economy, more jobs and a lower deficit," said House Budget Chairman Jim Nussle, R-Iowa.

Democrats emphasized that despite the improvement, the \$422 billion would be the biggest deficit ever in dollars, surpassing last year's record \$375 billion.

From the campaign trail, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts weighed in.

"Only George W. Bush could celebrate over a record budget deficit of \$422 billion, a loss of 1.6 million jobs, and Medicare premiums that are up by a record 17 percent," Kerry said.

Tuesday's figures don't include costly steps that many expert lawmakers think that would swell the red ink further. These include making tax cuts that Bush has won permanent, and easing the gradually growing impact on middle-class taxpayers of the alternative minimum tax, which was initially set at the 1963 level.

The CBO report said next year's deficit would shrink to \$348 billion, which would be the third largest ever in dollar terms.

That would be \$15 billion less than it projected last March, but \$17 billion higher than the White House estimated in July.

While the congressional analysts improved their short-term budget projections, their long-term forecast has worsened since last March.

Over the 10 years ending in 2014, the analysts now envision deficits totaling nearly \$2.3 trillion — almost \$300 billion worse than they projected in March.

The increase is largely due to an assumption that extra spending enacted this year for Iraq, Afghanistan and overall defense needs will be continued annually over the next decade. The validity of that assumption is likely to be proved for more partisan battling.

After a fleeting four-year return to annual budget surpluses under President Clinton, deficits have returned with a vengeance under Bush.

Republicans who spent the 1980s and 1990s railing against budget shortfalls have argued that fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, battling terrorism and righting the economy are higher priorities.

They also argue that today's deficits are no reason for panic because as a percentage of the overall economy, they are smaller than the largest shortfalls under President Reagan.



Wade Christmas gives his 4-year-old granddaughter, Tamara Marchman, a ride in a canoe Tuesday after the remnants of Hurricane Frances passed through the area, causing the Alafia river to flood several homes.

Frances leaves flooding, lines

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Frances wound up a two-prong assault on Florida that pounded both the central part of the state and the Panhandle, leaving storm-weary residents Tuesday with flooding, frayed nerves and shortages of everyday items such as gas, ice and water.

At least 14 deaths were blamed on the storm in Florida and Georgia. About 3 million people were without electricity in Florida, and officials said Tuesday that power wouldn't be fully restored for a week. In Georgia, more than 500,000 homes and businesses were without electricity Tuesday morning and even the Georgia Emergency Management Agency was running on generators.

The one-time hurricane had weakened to a tropical depression early Tuesday as it moved northward across Georgia at about 10 mph, weather forecasters said.

By midmorning, rain was falling across Georgia and South Carolina, and parts of North Carolina, Alabama, northern Florida, eastern Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky. Up to a foot of rain fell on parts of Georgia, the National Weather Service said.

Hurricane Ivan proves terrible

The Associated Press

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Hurricane Ivan blew off roofs and tore down trees Tuesday in Barbados as it churned toward Tobago and Grenada, where hundreds sought shelter just days after Frances swept through the Caribbean.

Ivan raced toward the Windward Islands with sustained winds of 115 mph, making it a Category 3. Forecasters said the storm could become a Category 4 late Tuesday.

A hurricane warning was issued for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and its dependencies. A hurricane watch was in effect in Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao. A tropical storm warning

was in effect for Martinique, St. Lucia and Barbados, where the island's 280,000 residents had prepared for the worst.

Barbados felt hurricane-force gusts up to 90 mph Tuesday morning, the weather center said. The whipping winds sent palm trees tumbling.

Several islanders called radio stations to report that winds ripped off their roofs completely and others said they had minor roof damage. No injuries have been reported.

If the storm's track continues, it could hit the island of Hispaniola, where floods in May killed more than 3,000 people on the Haitian-Dominican border.

It's too early to say if Ivan could threaten Florida, meteorologists said.

Panhandle residents withstood the tropical storm's heavy rain and wind of 65 mph that ruined Labor Day weekend.

Along the Atlantic coast, motorists waited for gasoline in lines stretching for miles, and there was heavy de-

mand for water, ice and basic supplies. About 1,500 people gathered at a Wal-Mart in Palm Beach County, while up the coast in Fort Pierce hundreds of people stood in a line with buckets and ice chests on a sunny, steamy afternoon.

Physicians: Clinton doing well; heart surgery done just in time

BY LUKAS I. ALPERT
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Bill Clinton was described as doing well Tuesday, breathing on his own as he recovers from an operation to relieve arteries so severely clogged that he was in imminent danger of a major heart attack.

He was taken off his respirator Monday night — a crucial step in his recovery, Dr. Bob Kelly, a member of Clinton's surgery team, said Tuesday.

"Everything is going very well," Kelly said on NBC's "Today" show. "That being said, the president has had major surgery, and it's a significant recuperation that he's about to undergo."

See related story
on Page 13

Clinton underwent the four-hour quadruple bypass operation Monday at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia. His heart disease was extensive, with blockages in some arteries more than 90 percent, doctors said.

"There was a substantial likelihood that he would have had a substantial heart attack," Dr. Allan Schwartz, chief of cardiology, said Monday. Doctors called Clinton's operation successful and said he could leave the hospital in four or five days.

"These past few days have been quite an emotional roller

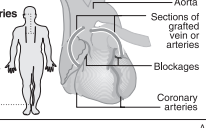
Coronary bypass

President Clinton underwent successful quadruple heart bypass surgery Monday.

Internal mammary arteries

The left and right internal mammary arteries and the saphenous vein from the left leg were used for the bypass.

Saphenous vein



coaster for us," Clinton's wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said in a statement. "The president's optimism and faith will

carry him through the difficult weeks and months ahead — of that we have no doubt."

Schwartz said in the future, it

will be possible for Clinton to lead an "extraordinarily active lifestyle."

Spousespeople for Clinton and Columbia-Presbyterian did not immediately return calls Tuesday seeking further detail on his condition.

The 58-year-old former president, a Democrat who served from 1993 to 2001, went to the hospital last week after complaining of chest pain and shortness of breath.

In bypass surgery, doctors remove one or more blood vessels from elsewhere in the body — in Clinton's case, two arteries from the chest and a vein from the leg — and attach them to arteries serving the heart, detouring blood around blockages.

Marilynn Marchione of The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Bush's Guard file missing required records

Experts say commanders may not have filed reports

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Documents that should have been written to explain gaps in President Bush's Texas Air National Guard service are missing from the military records released about his service in 1972 and 1973, according to regulations and outside experts.

For example, Air National Guard regulations at the time required commanders to write an investigative report for the Air Force when Bush missed his annual medical exam in 1972. The regulations also required commanders to confirm in writing that Bush received counseling after missing five months of drills.

No such records have been made public and the government told The Associated Press in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit that it has released all records it can find.

Outside experts suggest that National Guard commanders may not have produced documents required by their own regulations.

"One of the downfalls back then in the National Guard was that not everyone wanted to be chief of staff of the Air Force.



They just wanted to fly or maintain airplanes. So the record keeping could have been better," said retired Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., a former head of the Air National Guard. He said the documents may not have been kept in the first place.

Challenging the government's declaration that no more documents exist, the AP identified five categories of records that should

have been generated after Bush skipped his pilot's physical and missed five months of training.

"Each of these actions by any member of the National Guard should have generated the creation of many documents that have yet to be produced," AP lawyer David Schulz wrote the Justice Department Aug. 26.

House spokeswoman Claire Buchanan said there were no other documents to explain discrepancies in Bush's files.

Military service during the Vietnam War has become an issue in the presidential election as both candidates debate the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Democrat John Kerry commanded a Navy Swift boat in Vietnam and was awarded five medals, including a Silver Star. But



Left: George W. Bush poses in his Texas Air National Guard uniform in this updated photo. Above: A copy of Bush's pay stub from his stint in the Air National Guard, released by the White House on Feb. 10. Documents that should have been written explain why Bush's Guard service are missing from the military records released about his service in 1972 and 1973, according to several experts.

his heroism has been challenged in suits by some veterans who support Bush.

The president served stateside in the Air National Guard during Vietnam. Democrats have accused him of shirking his Guard service and getting favored treatment as the son of a prominent Washington figure.

The AP talked to experts unaffiliated with either campaign who have reviewed Bush's files for missing documents. They said it was not unusual for Guard commanders to ignore deficiencies by junior officers such as Bush. But they said missing a physical exam, which caused him to be grounded, was not common.

The five kinds of missing files are:

- A report from the Texas Air National Guard to Bush's local draft board certifying that Bush remained in good standing. The government has released copies of those DD Form 44 documents

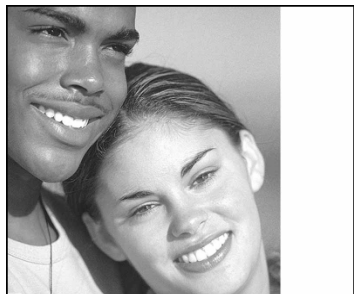
for Bush for 1971 and earlier years but not for 1972 or 1973.

- Records of a required investigation into why Bush lost flight status. An investigative report was supposed to be forwarded "with the command recommendation" to Air Force officials "for final determination."

- A written acknowledgment from Bush that he had received the orders grounding him. His Texas commanders were ordered to have Bush sign such a document, but none has been released.

- Reports of formal counseling sessions Bush was required to have after missing more than three training sessions. No documents have surfaced indicating Bush was counseled or had written authorization to skip that training or make it up later.

- A signed statement from Bush acknowledging he could be called to active duty if he did not promptly transfer to another Guard unit after leaving Texas.



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Chickenpox vaccine cuts costs

BY LINDSEY TANNER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Vaccinating children against chickenpox saves the U.S. health care system nearly \$100 million a year in reduced hospitalizations for severe cases of the itchy disease, a study found.

Though most people who get the usually mild disease can be treated at home, chickenpox can be serious, and complications requiring hospitalization can include severe skin infections, encephalitis and pneumonia.

In 1993, two years before the government licensed the vaccine for routine use in early childhood, nearly 14,000 Americans were hospitalized for chickenpox-related complications at a cost of \$161 million, compared with 3,729 hospitalizations and \$66 million in related costs in 2001, the researchers estimated.

Routine vaccination has reduced cases in young children who get the shots and helped keep the disease from spreading to unvaccinated older children and adults, in whom the disease tends to be more severe.

The reduction in the disease "is excellent news for the vaccine program," said lead researcher Dr. Matthew Davis, a University of Michigan pediatrician who said he has no ties to the vaccine makers. The study was funded by the university.

Dr. Ben Z. Katz, an infectious disease specialist at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital, said the numbers are believable and were not unexpected.

"There's less complications, less hospitalizations, and you're saving money to boot. It's all good news," Katz said.

The study appears in September's Pediatrics, prepared for release Tuesday.

Despite indirect protection from vaccinating young children, adults and teens who have not yet had chickenpox should consider getting the shots themselves, Davis said. This is especially important for those who work with young children and for women of childbearing age, because the disease can be dangerous for the developing fetus, and the shots are not advised during pregnancy, he said.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a single dose of vaccine for all children between the ages of 12 months and age 13 who have never had chickenpox. Two doses several weeks apart are advised for older children and adults who've never had the disease.

Last year, almost 85 percent of toddlers received the chickenpox vaccine. It is considered about 80 percent effective at preventing the disease. When vaccinated people do develop chickenpox, it's almost always a mild case, according to the CDC.

Candidates turn attention to jobs

Bush calls for legal reforms; Kerry focuses on outsourcing

By PETE YOST
The Associated Press

President Bush and rival John Kerry on Tuesday offered different ways to boost the sluggish job market, the president calling for legal reforms to help workers and businesses while his Democratic

opponent proposed ending tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas.

Kerry, moving aggressively in the face of polls showing his candidacy lagging, used the latest forecast of a record budget deficit to bolster his contention that Bush is leading the country in the wrong direction. The Bush administration describes the lower deficit prediction as positive economic news.

In his second day of campaigning in Missouri, a state he won in 2000 by just 79,000 votes out of 2.3 million cast, Bush told a rally in suburban Kansas City that Kerry had stood in the way of legal reforms that would help generate jobs and protect workers and businesses. He called Kerry "one of the trial lawyers' most reliable allies in the Senate."

Bush, linking Kerry policies to campaign donations from trial attorneys, said "junk lawsuits" hinder job creation and cost the economy more than \$230 billion a year.

With the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicting this year's federal deficit will reach \$422 billion — less than earlier forecasts but still the highest ever — Kerry told supporters in North Carolina that the deficit represented other bad Bush choices.

"Only George W. Bush could celebrate over a record budget deficit of \$422 billion, a loss of 1.6



AP photos

President Bush pets Duke, an eight-week old bassett hound belonging to Cathy Reynolds of Warrensburg, Mo., during an unscheduled campaign stop Tuesday.

million jobs and Medicare premiums that are up by a record 17 percent," Kerry said. "W stands for wrong — the wrong direction for America."

Kerry said he would end tax breaks for companies that outsource overseas, a potent issue in North Carolina and other states that have suffered job losses.

"Because of George Bush's wrong choices, this country is continuing to ship good jobs overseas — jobs with good wages and good benefits," Kerry said.

Kerry's criticism on the economic front came a day after he leveled harsh criticism at Bush over the war in Iraq, declaring that the president had sent U.S. troops to the "wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Bush dismissed Kerry's remarks on the war as yet another switch in position by a senator who originally voted to give the president the authority to act in Iraq.

"No matter how many times Senator Kerry changes his mind, it was right for America then and it's right for America now if Saddam

Hussein is no longer in power," the president told supporters Monday in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Kerry's plan to deal with the problem of outsourcing jobs would eliminate rules allowing companies to defer paying taxes on income earned by their foreign subsidiaries until they bring the profits back to the United States.

Kerry says the elimination would ensure that American companies will be taxed on their foreign subsidiaries' profits just like they are taxed on their domestic profits.

The president's plan for dealing with job losses through job training, increased funding for community colleges and creation of "opportunity zones" of reduced taxes.

Bush said the jobs picture is improving largely due to tax cuts that he said have helped push down the unemployment rate to 5.4 percent.

The economy "is strong and is getting stronger," Bush told a Labor Day crowd in Poplar Bluff.

Nader will not be on Va. ballots

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Independent Ralph Nader will not appear on Virginia's presidential ballot, the State Board of Elections said Tuesday.

Nader fell short of the required 10,000 certified signatures on his qualifying petitions, said Jean Jensen, secretary of the board.

"He needed 10,000 and we were able to verify 7,342," Jensen said.

Nader had submitted about 12,900 signatures, and officials checked them against local voter lists.

"We'll review ourselves — the ones they've knocked off — and see if they are accurate," said Nader spokesman Kevin Zeese.

But if they're not registered voters, they're not registered voters."

Nader has met requirements to appear on ballots in 20 states, Zeese said, including nine actively contested by President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry.

The Constitution Party and Libertarian Party candidates did qualify in Virginia, and will join Bush and Kerry on November's ballot, Jensen said.

"It helps Kerry," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. "Does it win the election in Virginia for him? Certainly not."



Presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry speaks at the 36th annual Congressional Labor Day Picnic in Cleveland on Monday.

Surgery keeping Clinton off campaign trail

By JOHN F. HARRIS
The Washington Post

Four years ago, then-President Bill Clinton spent much of the fall campaign season stewing in the Oval Office — largely banished from the trail on orders from the Democratic nominee.

This year, Clinton will spend at least a portion of the next eight weeks stewing from his hospital bed and living room. The difference is that this year, other Democrats are as frustrated at having Clinton on the sidelines as he is to be there.

Clinton's heart surgery Monday means that he will miss most or all of political trips and Democratic fund-raisers in September. The former president hopes he will have recuperated sufficiently to resume a political schedule by October, including appearances on behalf of Democratic nominee John F. Kerry, but his aides and political handlers said this remains uncertain pending doctor's orders.

"He's eager to help," said Washington lobbyist Steve Ricchetti, a former White House deputy chief of staff who still handles much of Clinton's business. "It will be absolutely dependent on what the doctors say he can and should be doing."

In the days before physicians surprised Clinton by informing him that he had se-

vere blockage of his coronary arteries — prompting urgent heart bypass surgery at a Manhattan hospital — he had been firming up his political schedule for the next several weeks.

Ricchetti said Clinton had committed, or was on the verge of committing, to about eight major fund-raisers.

These included events for the Democratic National Committee and the two political arms of congressional Democrats — the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee — advisers said.

In addition, Clinton will cancel a planned trip to Asia to promote his memoir, "My Life," and will postpone an energy forum sponsored by his foundation which had been scheduled for later this month.

Charles Cook, an independent political analyst, called Clinton's temporary sidelining "unwelcome news for Democrats, including Kerry."

The fund-raisers, he said, "would be

hard to replicate, and even if they get pushed back until October, that's later" than candidates would like to see the money.

He said the political implications should not be exaggerated, particularly for Kerry. "He wasn't going to be a big hit with swing voters," Cook said, noting that Clinton's use for Democrats is principally as a draw to raise money, and also to excite core Democrats to turn out to the polls.

This year, polls suggest that these Democratic base voters are already highly motivated to turn out because of their disdain for President Bush.

Kerry has said that he is eager to use Clinton on his behalf. What exactly this means, however, has not been spelled out by Kerry's aides. They maintain that it has not been decided, and won't be until later in the season, as strategists judge which states and which voters remain up for grabs, and what kind appeal would work for them.

Clinton had kept large chunks of his schedule open. Ricchetti said he had been discussing the matter with Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill and others.

"There certainly was every expression of a desire to have him be helpful, his schedule permitting," he said.

Navy undecided if Kerry records will be reviewed

Stars and Stripes

The Navy has not decided whether it will investigate John Kerry's war record after receiving a request to do so by a public interest group, a Navy spokesman said Tuesday.

In an August 18 letter to the Defense Department, Judicial Watch requested an investigation into the "determination and final disposition of the awards granted to Lieutenant (junior grade) John Forbes Kerry, U.S. Naval Reserve."

The Defense Department passed the request on to the Navy. Navy Cmdr. Conrad Chun of the Navy Office of Information said the Navy "has not decided what it will do with the request," but that the inspector general would review it.

Kerry has been under fire from Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group of veterans who served in Vietnam at the same time, about whether he earned the Vietnam decorations Kerry has made central to his campaign for the presidency.

He was wounded in action and subsequently awarded three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star and a Bronze Star.



Clinton

YOUR MONEY

Shortcuts can be a pain
storage for the future

Q. Is there a shortcut method to saving Microsoft Outlook e-mail to a personal folder on your hard drive? — Patrick King

A. The easiest way to back up entire Outlook e-mail files, including the entire inbox of messages, is to install a utility that Microsoft does not include in Outlook. It is, however, available for download in Microsoft's downloads area at www.microsoft.com/office.

Go there and use the search term Personal Folders Backup. This takes you to a list of the backup tools for the various versions of Office, including 2000, 2002 and 2003.

Click your version and you'll get a download page. The download is tiny at 160 kilobytes and it alters your software to add a Backup command under File.

Henceforth, a user can select a mailbox, check on File and Backup and point to ward any part of the hard drive or a removable storage device to receive the backup copy.

Don't ask me why this isn't built into the software; instead, merely offered as an optional add-in. Mr. K. Maybe they don't think their customers can handle the process of finding a folder to use for backups?

Most likely, though, it's done that way so that corporate computer managers can regulate whether employees are allowed to make their own copies of a company's e-mail (or outboard e-mail). Whatever the reason, the fix is a snap but must be done by hand.

Q. I recently saw information for a personal server that provides for automatic backup of selected files and remote access and file sharing through a link colleagues can log on by way of the Web.

They claim security, ease of use and setup designed for average users. What's the deal here? — Helen Kallal

A. There was a time when the crystal-ball gazers thought that this idea of selling backup storage and their key files would be the Internet's proverbial better mousetrap, Ms. K.

Instead, startup just became another one among all the other little-known-but-fabulous tools still waiting for the world to catch a path to their Web sites.

For small businesses and individuals, there are many number of services that sell storage space on their own banks of computers located in secure locations.

An entire industry called data warehousing has sprung up for large corporate clients, but we

lesser players need other resources. Among them are remote warehousing systems and products that rely on keeping backups on site but on dedicated equipment separate from the computer itself.

At the high end for consumers and small businesses are local storage offerings such as Mirra Inc.'s Personal Server, where you buy a hard drive and software that lets you make complete backups of a machine and then allows those you approve to log on to a Web page and download whatever is kept in a secure shared folder.

Prices start at \$400 for a 90-gigabyte

Ask Jim

hard-drive-based system and range up to \$750 for a huge 250-gb setup. See Mirra.com for details.

Less costly in the short term and much simpler are remote data warehousing services such as MyDocs Online.com that let you either work through a Web browser or the networking features in

Windows XP to do backups by dragging stuff into a so-called Web Folder.

My Docs Online Inc. charges as little as \$10 per quarter for 50 megabytes of storage on its machines.

While quite different than Mirra's hardware-based system, My Docs Online nicely serves the need to back up key information and readily share it with whomever you care to trust.

You also can put stuff in a public folder that the unwashed masses can access.

These are two of many data recovery and sharing models. CMS Products Inc., for example, offers appealing data-backup hard-drive systems similar to Mirra but also sells software that lets you use other removable storage equipment to hold the data. CMS lacks the same easy access to stuff by way of the Web.

However CMS's standalone software and its hardware storage products let you run backup incremental backups throughout the day in the background, thus leaving you at all times with an exact copy of your machine.

A particularly appealing product lets road warriors keep backups of their laptops on a conveniently sized portable hard drive.

Check out CMSProducts.com for details.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: jcoates@tribune.com or via mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: www.chicagotribune.com/askjim

Be aware pet costs add up

New owners urged to budget appropriately

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kittens and puppies at the pet store or local pound may tug at your heartstrings, but new pet owners soon find that animal companions also can tug at their purse strings.

Caring for a pet can be expensive even if the animal has no serious illnesses or special medical needs, which can add considerably to the cost. It's something many families overlook when they're adopting or buying a pet.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which is based in New York, says the cost of maintaining a large dog can run about \$660 a year. That would cover food, routine veterinary visits and miscellaneous expenses, such as leashes, bedding, toys and treats. A medium-sized dog can cost about \$450, while a small one will run about \$300.

Cat costs are nothing to shake a paw at either, with a cat's maintenance running about \$350 a year, the society estimates.

Gail Buchwald, an ASPCA vice president, said that for most people, it's an acceptable trade-off. "I know that \$600 — or even \$300 — sounds like a lot," she said. "But of course, what you get back from a pet is priceless."

That's what Emily Foley, a public relations specialist in Royal Oak, Mich., is discovering with her first pet, Suda, a black and white kitten.

"We had no idea he'd become a line item in our monthly budget," Foley said. "We've spent \$500 so far for shots, neutering, declawing, flea stuff, things like that. It really adds up."



Suds rests Tuesday on Marc Drake's arm as Drake's girlfriend, Emily Foley, looks on in their apartment in Royal Oak, Mich. "We had no idea he'd become a line item in our monthly budget," Foley said.

Then, of course, there's the lure of cat accessories, some more necessary than others, she said.

"I didn't know what cats like, so I picked out one of everything," Foley said. That included a modern litter box for \$30 and an ID tag. "I also bought him a bed, which he's never used, and a 'kitty cone' with lots of levels for climbing, which he's never used except to scratch a little," she added.

But Foley said Suda is worth the investment.

"You come home from work and you're bummed out about whatever, and there's Suda doing backflips and racing around and then wanting to cuddle," she said.

Daisy Okas, assistant vice president for communications with the American Kennel Club in New York, said people "know they're supposed to feed their dog, to pick up after their dog, but they don't necessarily think about ongoing costs that are involved."

Families should start by researching various breeds to find a pet compatible with their lifestyle and likely to fit into their budgets.

And owners also need to think about what happens when they travel. Both temporary boarding facilities and dog or cat sitters can be expensive.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|---|--------------|
| British pound | \$1.241 |
| Japanese yen | \$1.183 |
| South Korean won | \$1.123 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.377 |
| British pound | \$1.179 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.261 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.158 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 6.159 |
| Euro | \$1.267 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.994 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 206.63 |
| India (Rupee) | 47.56 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.617 |
| Japan (Yen) | 109.69 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2947 |
| Malaysia (Ringgit) | 0.808 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.69 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 2.47 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.7018 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1149.80 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.1468 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 46.62 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 1,515,125.00 |
| (Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For nonmilitary currency exchange, see the purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates for U.S. dollars and foreign currencies. All figures are foreign exchange rates as of Sept. 7, 2004. British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.) | |

PRECIOUS METALS

| London close | |
|--------------|----------|
| Gold | \$788.60 |
| Silver | \$6.21 |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---|------|
| Prime rate | 4.50 |
| Discount rate | 2.50 |
| Federal Reserve market rate | 1.00 |
| 3-month bill | 1.64 |
| 30-year Treasury | 5.25 |
| Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com | |

cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Revamp your cover letter

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — When you apply for a job, your cover letter is often an employer's glimpse of you beyond the basic information on your résumé. It's important to make a good first impression.

Consider the following:

■ Address it to a specific person. Letters addressed "To whom it may concern" show you have little knowledge of the company and provide a reason to shunt your application from in-box to in-box before it finally lands in the recycling bin.

■ Call the company or check its Web site to find out specifically what you are likely to be reading your materials.

■ Brief it relevant — and brief. Talk about recent or noteworthy accomplishments that play up your strengths. Be careful to supply new information instead of reiterating what the employer will find out from your résumé.

■ Remember why you're writing the cover letter. Be specific about what job you're interested in and what you believe you can do for the company. Find out what the company needs and describe how you can help.

■ End with a call to action. Ask the employer to call or e-mail you, instead of writing that you'll follow up with them. Provide the necessary contact information, even if you've already included it at the top of your letter. (You should still follow up with a phone call or an e-mail within a week of sending the application.)

■ Proofread. Check the letter before you send it. When applying for multiple jobs, it's easy to send the wrong cover letter, or not change the company name. Make sure you have addressed the letter to the correct person and have included the correct company name and job position. Check also, of course, for spelling and grammar problems.

Horoscope

The Cancer moon and Virgo sun work together to thoroughly inform you. Your heart and your head both process the facts at a remarkable speed, and as a result, you're able to learn and make decisions at lightning speed. Critical faculties are firing aggressively, but it's important not to let them interfere with your creativity.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (September 8). Your drive this year is amazing, even to you. Through this month, you'll feel strongly that you're being appreciated by those you hold dear, and that gives you wings, so to speak. You take on a new venture in October and virtually fly. Couples articulate needs better and therefore are more satisfied. Powerful signs for love are Taurus and Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your job is important, and today, you'll feel that in a very tangible way. There's no question you try and do your best under any circumstance, but precautionary measures help you create the most favorable circumstances possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be making some pretty senseless decisions (perhaps because you're in love?), but they'll work out in the best way possible. You don't care what others think, but it's best to focus your energy where you are most appreciated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a productive day, though you get off to a bumpy start. Keep imagining that people mean to help you, even if that's not what they are really doing. By the evening, all those good intentions will add up to something substantial.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It is impossible for anyone to correctly value your ideas if you don't do it first. Move instinctively toward the people who will facilitate your greater good. Follow through with important work without regard to the money involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's your day to bring a nagging problem under your control. Don't rush

things. Be wary of fast-track success — stick to your own timetable to control your destiny. Tonight, toss out old, stale mementos from a past relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Bright new faces, romance and important contacts electricity the scene. Mix with the people who are in the know, and your mood quickly elevates — though it was damped good to begin with. Brainstorm ways you can fill a niche.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Pay attention to trends, buzzwords and what the leaders are doing — not because you want to be a copycat but because all of this helps you hone your own original style. It's the perfect time to take calculated risks at work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're dealing with some stiff competition now, but you'll make your way by doing what you always do — taking the road less traveled. Stand up for your own creative methods of getting things done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Money and help signal that you're on the right track. If you're not getting enough of either, do a little market research. Ask people what they see as your strengths and weaknesses, and be willing to hear the answer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Gentle goals bring sure victory, whereas huge ones give you pressure. Just think of the next step — anything too far off will bring frustration and overwhelming feelings. One thing at a time gets it done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friends play a role in making your ideas come to life. Aesthetics also come into the equation. If the old look is getting tired, polish your style. Wherever people gather for the purpose of health is great for your love life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This day carries a strong momentum. You could have a mild curiosity at breakfast that turns into a driving ambition by lunchtime. Early on, you may feel as if (those around you just don't understand, but tension will lift by nightfall.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



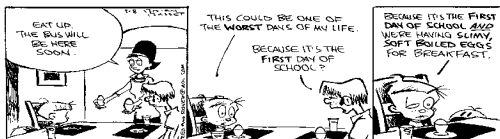
Hi and Lois



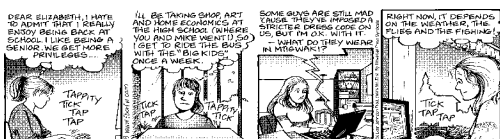
Beetle Bailey



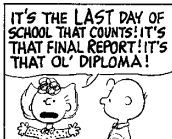
Red and Rover



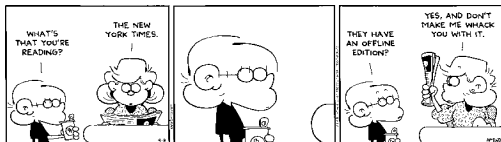
Better or Worse



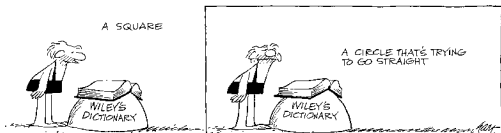
Peanuts



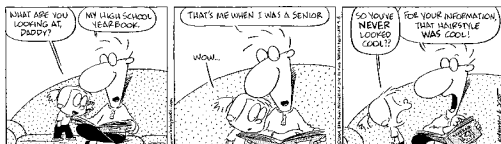
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



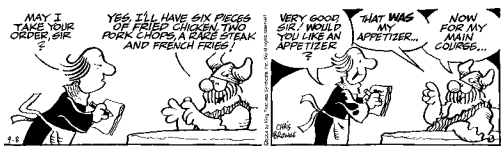
Blondie



Dilbert



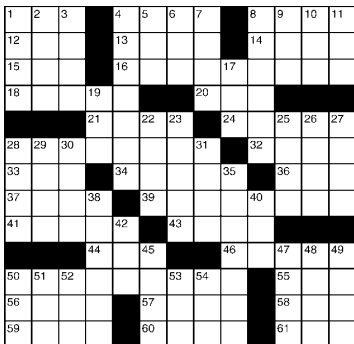
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Move up and down
- 2 Spilled the beans
- 8 Entreaty
- 12 Swelled head
- 13 Shaving cream additive
- 14 Dagwood's neighbor
- 15 Blueprint extra
- 16 Mississippi emblems
- 18 Sick and tired of it all
- 20 As well
- 21 Bridge coup
- 24 Substantial
- 28 Attractive?
- 32 Unembellished
- 33 Past
- 34 Six-pack, maybe
- 36 Actress Thompson
- 37 Masticate
- 39 Biz bigwigs
- 41 Buckwheat porridge
- 43 Burpee buy
- 44 Inventor Whitney
- 46 Mystery writing award
- 50 Sherlock's glass
- 55 Drop from the payroll
- 56 Grand-scale
- 57 Gratis
- 58 — de-France
- 59 Chromosome part
- 60 1/22 furlong

Down

- 61 Actor Beatty
- 1 Complaint
- 2 Look lewdly
- 3 Intrepid
- 4 Borrowers from older recordings
- 5 Carte lead-in
- 6 Yuletide quaff
- 7 Refuted fellow
- 8 Botanical tissue
- 9 Maui memento
- 10 Historic period
- 11 Fireworks sound
- 12 Sailors' org.
- 22 Teeny bit
- 23 Gold-finger?
- 25 Touched
- 26 Christmas symbol
- 27 Favorable votes
- 28 "— the Knife"
- 29 Eastern potentate
- 30 Sallies forth
- 31 "Leaving Las Vegas" star
- 35 Laughed scornfully
- 38 From which place
- 40 Use a calculator
- 42 Will Smith biopic
- 45 Uncertain
- 48 Wheel-base terminus
- 49 Stewart's "It's a Wonderful Life" wife
- 50 "Little Women" woman
- 51 Mimic
- 52 Rummy variety
- 53 401(k) alternative
- 54 Always, in verse

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-8 CRYPTOQUIP

RNS ULNVS SN JUYS D
 ANWD AUWEUWKRD. K
 YJNWD K JNVZC IURE NR
 VRSKZ SID LVSSDW DRC.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'M REALLY SKILLED
 AT MAKING LIGHT DONUTS, YOU MIGHT SAY
 I'M CRULLER-COORDINATED.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals T

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Wednesday, September 8

AFN-Sports, 530 a.m. - Hockey: World Cup North American quarterfinals (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - Olympics: 2004 Summer Games Highlight Show (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - College football: Tulane at Mississippi State (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 730 p.m. - Australian rules football: Adelaide at Melbourne (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 930 p.m. - Baseball: St. Louis at San Diego.

Thursday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m. - Baseball: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees.

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. - Motorcycle racing: Men's and women's quarterfinals at Oostende (ongoing in progress).

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at Anaheim (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. - Hockey: World Cup North American quarterfinals (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. - Motorcycle racing: MotoGP 155cc Czech Grand Prix (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

(All times Central European time; dtd indicates time-delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts may not be available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.)

Golf

World ranking

Through Sept. 6

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1. Vijay Singh | 72.0 |
| 2. Tiger Woods | 71.0 |
| 3. Phil Mickelson | 70.0 |
| 4. Ernie Els | 69.0 |
| 5. Retief Goosen | 68.0 |
| 6. Adam Scott | 67.0 |
| 7. Padraig Harrington | 66.0 |
| 8. Adam Scott | 65.0 |
| 9. Jim Furyk | 64.0 |
| 10. Stewart Cink | 63.0 |
| 11. Scott Verplank | 62.0 |
| 12. Chad Campbell | 61.0 |
| 13. Fred Couples | 60.0 |
| 14. Chris DiMarco | 59.0 |
| 15. Stephen Ames | 58.0 |
| 16. Miguel A. Jimenez | 57.0 |
| 17. Jay Haas | 56.0 |
| 18. Fred Couples | 55.0 |
| 19. Michael Van der Graaf | 54.0 |
| 20. Fredrick Jacobson | 53.0 |
| 21. Justin Leonard | 52.0 |
| 22. Robert Allenby | 51.0 |
| 23. Rory Sabbatini | 50.0 |
| 24. Michael Van der Graaf | 49.0 |
| 25. Nick Price | 48.0 |
| 26. Jonathan Kay | 47.0 |
| 27. Luke Donald | 46.0 |
| 28. J.J. Van Jaarsveld | 45.0 |
| 29. Jerry Kelly | 44.0 |
| 30. Chris Riley | 43.0 |
| 31. Charles McNeill | 42.0 |
| 32. Charles McNeill | 41.0 |
| 33. Charles McNeill | 40.0 |
| 34. Charles McNeill | 39.0 |
| 35. Charles McNeill | 38.0 |
| 36. Charles McNeill | 37.0 |
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| 41. Charles McNeill | 32.0 |
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| 61. Charles McNeill | 12.0 |
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| 66. Charles McNeill | 7.0 |
| 67. Charles McNeill | 6.0 |
| 68. Charles McNeill | 5.0 |
| 69. Charles McNeill | 4.0 |
| 70. Charles McNeill | 3.0 |
| 71. Charles McNeill | 2.0 |
| 72. Charles McNeill | 1.0 |
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| 99. Charles McNeill | 0.0 |
| 100. Charles McNeill | 0.0 |

Deutsche Bank Championship

Monday

ATP-Sports, 10 a.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 1 p.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 4 p.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 7 p.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 10 p.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 1 a.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 4 a.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

ATP-Sports, 7 a.m. - Tennis: U.S. Open at San Diego.

Todd Fischer, \$39,875
Sander, \$39,875
J. R. Rouse, \$1,701.87

A. Sander, \$1,701.87
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Rix knows he can silence critics with title

Florida State QB trying to focus on field, not detractors at school

BY STEPHEN F. HOLDER
The Miami Herald

FOR TALLAHASSEE, Fla. or Chris Rix, sometimes it's a cell phone call. Other times, it's a passersby he has never met. But, mostly, it's the e-mails. That's where the Florida State quarterback gets the bulk of his criticism, right in his student e-mail account — the address of which is available via the school's Web site, like it is for every other FSU student.

Some of his critics are tactful. Others get downright personal, questioning everything from his field vision to his manhood, often using vivid adjectives not suitable for print in this newspaper. There were times not so long ago when Rix would give his detractors the satisfaction of stooping to their level.

"In the past, I would reply to it," he said of the e-mail messages.

Now, instead of poring over critical e-mails, articles or phone messages, Rix says he is pouring all his energy into making his last and most important collegiate season his best.

"You can't control what other people think," he said. "You can only control how you react to it. I really care what people think. But I think that would only be a distraction and hold me back. Over the past couple seasons, that has really helped. And it's the reason I'm still here, because if not, I probably would have left this place."

Rix's last stand

Love him or hate him, it's hard to disagree that it has been hard being Chris Rix. He inherited a job last held by a Heisman Trophy winner (Chris Weinke), and did so as an inexperienced redshirt freshman at that.

He plays the most prominent position at a prominent program where success is translated as winning national titles.

Lastly — but in no way is this the least of his burdens — Rix has had to endure the disparagement that comes with being the poster



ST. PETERSBURG TIMES/SHS

FSU QB Chris Rix (16) has taken a lot of abuse for not leading the Seminoles to a national championship, but he's not lacking in talent. He needs 2,315 passing yards to surpass Chris Weinke for the top spot on the school's career list, and his 3,107 yards last season are the fourth-highest for an FSU passer in a season.

Stats, but no title

boy for the shortcomings of a team that has been a college football powerhouse the past two decades.

But after three roller-coaster seasons, this day has come. A strong senior season can supercede all the bad reads, the untimely fumbles, the unexplainable interceptions. One strong senior season for Rix could forever silence the chorus of doubters that echoes in his head.

"This year, I know this is my last shot. ... This next three- or four-month window, I need to be the most focused that I've ever been. I'm excited about the opportunity to lead this football team, and to do it not so much through what I say or anything else, but by what I do. So I do through actions."

Rix will leave FSU as one of the school's greatest quarterbacks, statistically. He trails only Weinke in career yardage and will surpass him with 2,315 more yards — an easily reachable goal for Rix.

His 3,107 yards in 2003 rank fourth all-time on FSU's single-season passing list, and his 60 career touchdown passes rank second, also behind Weinke.

"I can't think of another quarterback in the country that matches

him physically," running back Leon Washington said.

Said coach Bobby Bowden: "I think the biggest thing for Chris is not to make foolish mistakes. You're going to make mistakes, but don't make foolish ones. ... A lot of times, that happens to a great athlete: He thinks he can do anything. He thinks he can throw that ball behind his back and complete it, and they get in trouble doing that."

The list of Rix mistakes, unfortunately for the Seminoles, is alarmingly long.

■ Against Miami as a freshman, he committed six turnovers in a 49-17 loss.

■ Against Louisville in 2002, Rix's overtime interception ended FSU's only OT possession and sealed the loss.

■ Later that season, three Rix turnovers led to easy scores for Notre Dame as the Irish humbled the Seminoles at Tallahassee. Rix was demoted two days later.

At times like these, the criticism became nearly unbearable for Rix. After last year's upset at Clemson, a fan went so far as to hang a makeshift banner on the side of the road, in plain view of the players' entrance to Doak Campbell Stadium, with derogatory remarks.

Internet message boards seized with harsh comments.

It didn't help the eerily in his career Rix gained a reputation for being cocky, and the perception has remained. Last year, when he parked illegally on campus twice in the span of a few days, FSU students were more than willing to call a campus police to have his SUV ticketed.

A fighter

Regardless, Rix says he is ready to persevere in the face of whatever confronts him, whether it's harsh words or defensive line-men.

"Fight" is one word that, this year, is engrained in my heart.

In everything I do, I have to fight. It's life, it's relationships, it's school, sports, family, friends. You have to fight. And I think my career has kind of showed that."

He believes his ability to fight has helped him reach this point, on the cusp of a senior year he hopes will yield a national title. He learned the concept at an early age when his mother, Theda, died of cancer when Rix was 7.

"Nothing comes easy, and in my life, nothing really has," said Rix, from Santa Margarita, Calif. "People think I just played and got to Florida State and I had a storybook upbringing. I have had a lot of great things happen to me, had a great life. But it has been tough at times. ... In the meantime, as the e-mails keep coming, Rix has his reaction down pat.

"I simply smile and delete it because they can get pretty bad. I just pray that there's more to their lives than football."

Canes, Seminoles trying to get back on track after Frances

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Florida State and Miami were originally scheduled to play Monday. Instead, they spent the day trying to recover from Hurricane Frances.

It wasn't easy, but it was necessary as the teams prepared for their postponed season opener Friday night at the Orange Bowl. Frances forced the No. 4 Seminoles to practice indoors while they mourned the loss of coach Bobby Bowden, a 15-year-old grandson and former son-in-law.

John Allen Madden, a 45-year-old former Florida State

linebacker who played under Bowden, and his son, Bowden, were killed Sunday when their car was hit by a utility truck that was helping restore power outages caused by Frances.

"Most of us have been around all of the Bowden family a great deal, and it is a loss shared by all of us," Florida State athletic director Dave Hart said in a statement. "Words can't express the grieving I know the Bowdens are going through."

The Seminoles closed practice to the media and had no player or coach availability Monday. Bowden and offensive coordin-

ator Jeff Bowden attended the workout.

The fifth-ranked Hurricanes practiced Monday for the first time in four days because of Frances.

"Guys' minds were not on football," center Joel Rodriguez said. "Guys' minds were on their families, their houses, their property and their safety. It's understandable. ... To have three days off where you're not even thinking about football, but about your house being blown away or whatever, it's a lot to come back from and get right into the flow."

Several players' families and friends were still without power and water Monday.

Miami defensive back Devin Hester, from Riviera Beach, said the roof on his parents' home collapsed, flooding every room, and a tree crushed his mother's car.

"It didn't turn out too good," Hester said. "It's kind of bad knowing that I'm here and my mom, they're in Palm Beach struggling. I'm just trying to keep my focus and concentrate on football right now."

Miami receiver Ryan Moore, from Orlando, said Hurricane Charley affected his family more than Frances. But having two hurricanes within three weeks left him with some troubling nights.

"I've never seen anything back on track like that," Moore said. "All of us from Florida, we're as used to it as you can get. You've just got to go with the punches." Another hurricane could affect the rescheduled game. Hurricane Ivan, a Category 2 storm with 105 mph wind, lost strength Monday but could hit the Gulf of Mexico, bring it near Florida's Atlantic coast Friday.

With what's happened with the last two, Frances and Charley, there's certainly a definite concern," Hurricanes coach Larry Coker said. "Maybe we can't play because it's so far away. But it's very powerful, and it's on track."

Brees, Fiedler named starters for openers

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — For a guy who figuratively got thrown under the bus by his own organization, Drew Brees emerged without a scratch.

Brees kept his job as starting quarterback of the San Diego Chargers on Monday, a move that was expected after he followed last season's miserable performance with a solid exhibition season.

Doug Flutie, 41, who accounted for half of the Chargers' four wins last year, will be the backup. Philip Rivers, the fourth pick in April's draft who missed 29 practices during a contract holdout, will be the third-stringer. The Chargers also will carry Cole Leman on the active roster.

"It doesn't really change anything for me," said Brees, who's 4-16 in his past 20 starts. "There's still a lot of work ahead, and that's what I'm focused on."

The Chargers open on Houston on Sunday.

Brees has been steady in four exhibition games, two of which the Chargers won. The Chargers' opening day starter the past two years, he completed 31 of 45 passes (69 percent) for 432 yards and three touchdowns, with two interceptions this summer. In 15 series, he directed the Chargers to five touchdowns and a field goal.

Last year, Brees was benched for five games and yanked from two others. He completed only 205 of 356 passes (57.6 percent), with 11 touchdowns and 15 interceptions.

"I fully expect, barring injury, that he'll be our quarterback," coach Marty Schottenheimer said. "What I saw was a young man who had a rough year last year, and we all know, if you're not successful, it all begins with the quarterback," he said. "He

came back with a renewed purpose and I think what has happened is he's gained more experience from last year, and I think that has served him well as we move into this year."

Fiedler beats out Feeley as Dolphins' QB — for now

DAVIE, Fla. — Jay Fiedler was named Miami's starting quarterback for the fifth consecutive season Tuesday, beating out A.J. Feeley after a six-month competition.

But coach Dave Wannstedt stressed that the decision was effective only for Sunday's season opener against Tennessee.

Fiedler completed 20 of 33 passes for 199 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions during the preseason. Feeley went 23-for-41 for 244 yards with no touchdowns and one interception.

The 32-year-old Fiedler previously beat back challenges from Brian Griese and Damon Huard. But the Dolphins clearly want Feeley to be their quarterback for the future.

They traded a second-round draft pick in March for Feeley, who had been Philadelphia's third-string quarterback. Then they signed him to a five-year deal worth \$21.6 million.

The team also gave Fiedler permission to pursue a trade. He briefly tested the market, then agreed to a restructured contract with the Dolphins that eliminates the \$2 million bonus he was due to collect in April.

Fiedler has never been a popular figure in fans in Miami even though he is 35-17 in four seasons as a starter.

Browns' Suggs misses practice

BEREA, Ohio — Browns running back Lee Suggs did not practice Monday, raising doubts about his availability for the season opener against the Baltimore Ravens.

Suggs, who sat out Saturday's preseason

finale against the Chicago Bears with a neck "stinger," had little to say in the locker room following practice.

"Asked if he would play in Sunday's opener, Suggs said, 'It's not up to me.'"

Suggs only nodded to a few more questions before being whisked away by a team spokesman, who hovered near the second-year back's locker during the brief interview session.

Catch Butch Davis steered clear of talking about Suggs, who rushed for a team-high 118 yards on 15 carries and scored three touchdowns during the exhibition season.

"He's day to day," Davis said.

Based on his play during training camp and in three preseason games, Suggs appeared to win the competition with William Green to be the Browns' No. 1 back.

Crumpler, Price unable to practice

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Alge Crumpler and Peerless Price joined an injury list that already included Warrick Dunn and Keith Brooking for the Atlanta Falcons.

All four starters missed practice Monday afternoon, but each expects to be ready when Atlanta opens the season Sunday at San Francisco.

"It's nothing that seems serious at this time," coach Jim Mora said. "We don't have to file anything officially with the league yet, so I'd say they're questionable at the very best."

Crumpler, a Pro Bowl tight end, has a tight hamstring. Price, who will start his first game at flanker since the Falcons acquired him from Buffalo 1½ years ago, skipped the workout because of a sore groin that's bothered him since last week.

Price added he had negative results from an X-ray on his neck two weeks ago. He had an X-ray last week that gave negative results on his left pinky.

Dunn, who played just one series last week at Washington, is still suffering stiffness from an upper right leg strain that made him leave the preseason game against Cincinnati on Aug. 27.

Chiefs' Morton probable for Denver

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Wide receiver Johnnie Morton practiced Monday for the first time since July and could be ready for Kansas City's season opener at Denver.

It would be a huge lift for the Chiefs' injury-depleted receiver corps if Morton can overcome his sore Achilles' tendon and contribute.

Wide receiver Marc Boeriger, who had an impressive camp, went on injured reserve last week after knee surgery.

"It's not going to get any better unless I take a long layoff," said Morton, who had 50 catches last year for 740 yards and four touchdowns. "I got to where I could play well and deal with the pain."

Cardinals DT Bryant suspended

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona defensive tackle Wendell Bryant has been suspended for the first four games of the season for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

The Cardinals placed Bryant on the reserve/suspended list on Monday, and claimed three players off waivers: cornerback Derek Ross, defensive tackle Eddie Freeman and offensive tackle Jeremy Bridges. Arizona cut two players, center-guard Frank Garcia and guard Everett Lindsay.

Bryant, a 2002 first-round draft pick out of Wisconsin, was arrested on a drunk-driving charge by university police in Madison, Wis., on June 27. The arrest came when police stopped a car driven by Bryant and charged him with driving under the influence, speeding, failing to stop for a flashing red light and operating a vehicle with a prohibited alcohol level of 10 percent or more.

Pro Bowl tackles Pace, Jones sign one-year deals, practice

The Associated Press

Orlando Pace and Walter Jones really cut it close this year.

The Pro Bowl offensive tackles will get only four days of practice to prepare for their teams' season-openers after signing one-year contracts and joining their teams for practice on Monday.

Pace, a five-time Pro Bowl player, signed with the St. Louis Rams for \$7.02 million late Sunday night. Pace missed most of training camp last year and all of this season in retaliation for being designated with the franchise tag.

"We're all excited to have Orlando back, and I know he feels good about being back, too," Rams coach Mike Martz said. "It's a relief to have him here and we're all just very pleased he's here and we can get going."

Teammates were excited to have him back.

"When you've got the best offensive lineman in the league you want to see him in uniform," defensive lineman Tyoka Jackson said.

No question about it, he instantly makes us a better offense and makes us a better team.

"We're going to get him ready

and knowing Big O, it won't take him long to get ready."

Jones, Illinois, is the Seattle Seahawks' franchise player and a four-time Pro Bowl player, and he, too, has missed most of training camp in previous years.

"I'm here now," Jones said. "The season has started, and that stuff is behind me now. Whatever happened was going to happen, and right now I'm here to help this team win."

Both players have been seeking long-term contracts.

Martz said there won't be any hard feelings, either, just like last year. Pace also was a holdout his rookie year, missing most of training camp that season.

"It's never remembered," Martz said. "That's his deal and I don't have anything to do with that. That's another world that I don't participate in."

Pace had no comment, both before and after his first practice.

Martz said four practices will have to be enough for Pace. He pointed out that Pace practiced in shape, actually 16 pounds beneath his 2003 playing weight of 325 pounds, and that the Rams have not changed calls or terminology.

"He's obviously trained very

well and prepared himself to come to camp," Martz said. "Watching him in practice he's a little rusty with some things, but he's a pretty unique individual."

Jones was asked if he'll be ready for Sunday's opener at New Orleans.

"I don't think I have a choice," Jones said. "The coaches will look at me good and assess me."

Jones is coming off his fourth Pro Bowl season and will earn \$7.1 million this year, the average pay for the NFL's highest-paid offensive linemen. He was Seattle's first-round draft pick in 1997.

"We knew he'd show up today or tomorrow," guard Curs Gray said. "It's just good to have him back. Good guy."

Jones said his teammates welcomed him back. Gray insisted none of the linemen was resentful that Jones skipped training camp again.

"It's a business. That's what it is. This will probably extend his career," Gray joked.

Coach Mike Holmgren, on the other hand, wasn't thrilled his top lineman arrived so late again, saying nobody — players or agents has to assume Jones will be playing in Hawaii again next February.



Rams offensive tackle Orlando Pace will get only four days of practice to prepare for the opener after signing a one-year contract late Sunday.

"He's an exceptional player, no question about that," Holmgren said. "He's one of the best I've ever seen. But does every player need a little work to be at his best prior to the first game? I think they do."

Holmgren said he hadn't spoken with Jones and probably wouldn't go out of his way to do so

Monday. The team's conditioning coach told him Jones reported in good shape.

"As long as the conditioning people tell me he can practice, he's going to practice," Holmgren said. "My thought was for the first three days to run him around just to see where he was, but he's in pretty good shape."

Losman starts rehab; Bills defend decision on QBs

BY JOHN WAWROW

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills rookie quarterback J.P. Losman has his cast off and his hopes up.

Losman attended his first practice since breaking his left leg in practice last month, watching on crutches from the sideline Monday. It was the first step for a player who hadn't been able to go anywhere before getting his hard cast removed earlier in the day.

"This is my first day out. It feels good,"

said Losman, who is wearing a protective boot that covers his lower left leg. "I wanted to see the guys. And it's good for everyone to see me. I'm glad to see them. It's good to feel like part of the team again."

Losman, the second of Buffalo's two first-round picks, is projected to miss at least the first half of the season after breaking his fibula during a collision with teammate Troy Vincent at training camp.

The injury was a significant setback for a player the Bills are grooming to eventually succeed Drew Bledsoe.

"It's tough," Losman said. "You start get-

ting your hopes up. You start hearing all these things. And you're focused on getting better. . . . It's disappointing. It's frustrating."

The Bills elected against placing Losman on injured reserve, a move that would have ended his season. The team instead intends to keep Losman active so he can resume practicing when he's healthy enough.

While Losman was kept on the active roster, the other backup quarterback, Travis Brown, was placed on injured reserve and was unhappy about it.

Bills President Tom Donahoe on Monday defended his decision.

"It came down really to a numbers game," Donahoe said. "We like Travis. It's one of those decisions where maybe it's not the best thing for Travis. But right now, we thought it was the best thing for our team."

The move came a week after Brown sprained his left knee. And it came as a surprise after Donahoe indicated last week the team was going to keep Brown on the roster.

Brown was shocked by the team's decision and accused the Bills of not being upfront with him. Brown said the team had previously informed him that his job was safe. Donahoe said he never provided Brown any guarantees.

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Hambrick more congenial backing up Smith this time

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Troy Hambrick is playing behind Emmitt Smith again, but this time he's not complaining.

"I've got a big heart for Emmitt," Hambrick said after an Arizona Cardinals' workout, "and every day I get a chance to apologize to him for the things I said when I was younger and hungrier and thought that was the thing to do. It was immaturity."

The Cardinals traded an undisclosed conditional 2005 draft pick to Oakland last week to acquire Hambrick and defensive end Peppé Zellner. With new Arizona coach Dennis Green firmly committed to the 35-year-old Smith as the starting running back, a wiser Hambrick said he will play whatever role the Cardinals desire.

"They traded for me, so they needed me," Hambrick said. "I come in a little out of shape, but I'm pressing along trying to fit into this offense some kind of way. If my role is limited, I'll take it. If it's full of excitement, I'll take that."

With Marcell Shipp gone with a season-ending leg injury, Hambrick becomes the power back to complement Smith's finesse style.

"It was a good combination in Dallas until I opened my mouth," Hambrick said Sunday. "I'm going to try to keep that closed this year, and in the years to come."

Just two seasons ago, when Smith was still with Dallas and became the NFL's career rushing leader, Hambrick was impatient with his backup role, and said so.

At training camp in 2002, when Smith was just 340 yards shy of the record, Hambrick called himself the best running back on the team. After Smith broke the record, Hambrick hinted it was time for him to move on.

"I have always admired Emmitt and his will and the things he's done," Hambrick said back then. "I just feel like it comes a time — it's not my call to say when it's time — but I'm a guy that wants to get my career off the ground and establish myself as a household name."

Hambrick got his wish in 2003 and his attitude was still the same when the season started.

"This is my time," he said.



Emmitt Smith (22) is entrenched as the Cardinals' starting running back, playing ahead of recently acquired Troy Hambrick.

"Every day I get a chance to apologize to [Emmitt Smith] for the things I said when I was younger and hungrier and thought that was the thing to do. It was immaturity."

Troy Hambrick
Cardinals running back

his big talk. "I was hearing from everybody that I was the next thing to O.J. Simpson. But they didn't tell me that once a team starts game planning against you, all those big runs stop."

The Cowboys drafted running back Julius Jones in the second round this year, then released Hambrick in May. He was signed by Oakland, but spent more time eating than playing with the Raiders in the preseason.

"Not doing much here in Oakland. I gained maybe 10 or 12 pounds," Hambrick said. "I want to get down to 250. I'm about 260 now and I feel it. I'm working with the strength coach now. It's a work in progress, but I love to eat."

Smith said he harbors no bad feelings toward Hambrick.

"That's all water under the bridge to me," Smith said. "He had his opportunity to do what he needed to do. I don't think it had anything to do with me personally. He wanted to play. I understand that. He just handled it in a very immature way, which he's recognized."

Still, Smith obviously gets a kick out of finding the two of them in the same roles.

"It is funny," he said with a chuckle. "It is funny."

"We've been waiting on Emmitt to retire or make his move. . . . Of course, I see it as a breakout year. Every time I touch the ball, it's a breakout carry."

What followed was a lesson in humility. He started all 16 games for Dallas last season and gained 927 yards, but averaged just 3.5 yards per carry.

"It was just my desire to play the game," Hambrick now says of

Hewitt reaches quarterfinals; top seed Henin-Hardenne out

BY HAL BOCK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former champion Lleyton Hewitt reached his third consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal Tuesday, defeating Karol Beck 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, in the U.S. Open for his 14th consecutive match victory.

Hewitt, who won this title in 2001, put on an impressive display of shotmaking and covered the court effortlessly as his fiancée, former No. 1 Kim Clijsters, watched from the stands.

Beck reached the round of 16 in a Slam for the first time and stayed with Hewitt in the first set before being broken in the ninth game. Hewitt then served for the set, established control of the match and cruised the rest of the way.

Hewitt was never broken and needed just 1 hour, 40 minutes to advance.

It was Hewitt's fourth straight-set victory at the Open and gave him 19 wins in his last 20 matches and victories in 43 of the last 47 sets he has played.

Hewitt came into the Open seeded No. 4 following consecutive hard-court titles at Washington and Long Island. The victory over Beck pushed Hewitt's hard-court record for the year to 40-5, second only to Andy Roddick's 47-0 record for the season.

This is the Australian's best surface, and his 17 hard-court title trail only Andre Agassi for the most titles on hard courts. Agassi has 45.

Next for Hewitt will be the winner of the match between Tomas Berdych and Tommy Haas, scheduled for later Tuesday.

Tuesday's schedule was headlined by a pair of women's quarterfinals with No. 2

Amélie Mauresmo facing No. 6 Elena Dementieva in the day session and No. 8 Jennifer Capriati against No. 3 Serena Williams at night.

Mauresmo is the highest seeded woman remaining after defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne was eliminated on Monday by Nadia Petrova 6-3, 6-2. Henin-Hardenne's loss means there will be a new No. 1 player after the Open — perhaps Mauresmo or No. 4 Lindsay Davenport, who defeated No. 1 Venus Williams 7-5, 6-4 on Monday.

Henin-Hardenne's loss marked the earliest exit by the Open's top-seeded woman since Billie Jean King pulled out during her third-round match in 1973 because of illness.

"I never felt good in this tournament. I never felt free in my head. I never felt 100 percent in the court," Henin-Hardenne said. "It wasn't my day."

Seeded 14th, Petrova finished off the biggest win of her career with an ace down the middle. She had lost all five previous matches against Henin-Hardenne, and it took until the second set for Petrova to believe her time had come.

"I was a little bit doubting that I can still pull this match out because, knowing her experience, I was thinking she would change something in the game and start playing maybe different tennis, be more consistent, be in charge of the game," she said.

On the men's side, defending champion Andy Roddick, seeded No. 2, will play No. 18 Tommy Robredo Tuesday night.

Top-seeded Roger Federer had Tuesday off after advancing to the quarterfinals in a walkover when No. 16 Andrei Pavel withdrew because of a herniated disc in his lower back. On Wednesday, he keeps up his quest to become the first man since 1988 to win three Grand Slam championships in a season when he meets No. 6 Agassi in the quarterfinals. Agassi defeated old rival Sargis Sargsian 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

"Should be a lot of fun," Agassi said of his match with Federer. "I mean, there's nothing more you ask for than to play a big event against the best player in this environment. It's time to bring the best tennis."

The German and Dominik Hrbaty also advanced, as did Shinobu Asagoe. Svetlana Kuznetsov beat Mary Pierce 7-6 (5), 6-2 and will face Petrova.



Defending U.S. Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium reacts during her 6-3, 6-2 loss to Russia's Nadia Petrova on Monday in New York. The loss means Henin-Hardenne will lose her No. 1 ranking.

Bulls' Mutombo says he's ready to join Yao in Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Center Dikembe Mutombo has agreed to a trade that will send him from the Chicago Bulls to the Houston Rockets in exchange for Eric Piatkowski, Adrian Griffin and Mike Wilks, according to a newspaper report.

"It is where I have wanted to be all along," Mutombo told the Houston Chronicle on Monday in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he is participating in the NBA's Basketball Without Borders-Africa outreach program. "I told them a long time ago that it was my wish, and I'm so happy that it was granted."

Mutombo thinks playing for Houston will be a "perfect fit," playing alongside starting center Yao Ming, the Chronicle reported in its online edition Monday night. Mutombo told the newspaper he agreed to the deal Friday. He said he had already talked to Rockets assistant coach Patrick Ewing and others.

Rockets General Manager Carroll Dawson told the Chronicle the deal hasn't been finalized. But Dawson said Mutombo would be a good mentor for Yao.

"One of the things that you want to do when you add a backup center is add someone with a real special talent who doesn't do what everybody else does," Dawson said. "This is one of the all-time shot blockers in the league. He's been a real professional in the locker room and on the court."

I think he'll be a great mentor type for Yao Ming. I think he will be great for him to go against in practice every day."

Rockets spokesman Nelson Luis told The Associated Press the team had no comment on the report Monday night.

Mutombo, a 7-foot-2 center, has averaged 11.7 points and 11.7 rebounds in his 13 years in the NBA. He was traded to the Bulls in August as part of a deal that sent Jamal Crawford and Jerome Williams to the New York Knicks.

Greek sprinter Thanou questioned by prosecutor about motorcycle crash

ATHENS, Greece — Greek sprinter Katerina Thanou was questioned Tuesday by a prosecutor investigating a suspicious motorcycle accident that also involved Kostas Kenteris after they missed a drug test.

Thanou, who took silver in the 100 meters in Sydney, and Kenteris, the surprise 200-meter gold medalist in 2000, could not be found at the Olympic Village for an Aug. 12 doping test. Hours later, they said they were involved in the accident that happened because they were rushing back to the Olympic village to be tested.

Prosecutor Spyros Moutzakitis has been investigating the crash.

Kenteris and Thanou have denied any wrongdoing.

ESPN to launch in March

BRISTOL, Conn. — ESPN will launch a new multimedia college sports initiative in

March 2005 that includes a new 24-hour television network and content from ESPN.com and ESPN The Magazine.

ESPN will also include information from ESPN Radio, ESPN Mobile (wireless) and ESPN Broadband, George Bodenheimer, the president of ESPN and ABC Sports, said in making the announcement Tuesday.

The highest-profile facet of the new initiative will be the ESPN television network, which will carry approximately 300 games live — primarily Division I football and men's and women's basketball — in the first year. The network will also cover baseball, softball, volleyball, lacrosse, hockey, wrestling, spring football and select high school football games.

Finland edges Germany in World Cup of Hockey semifinals

HELSINKI, Finland — Mikko Eloranta tipped a shot past Olaf Kolzig with 3:22 left, lifting Finland to a 2-1 victory over Germany and into semifinals of the World Cup of Hockey.

Finland, which finished atop the European pool after tying Sweden 4-4 in their round-robin finale, will play the winner of the game between the defending champion United States and Russia when the tournament moves to North America for the semifinals.

Sweden was scheduled to play the Czech Republic in Stockholm on Tuesday in the other European pool quarterfinal.

China reduces number of planned Olympic stadiums from 10 to 5

BEIJING — China will build five new stadiums for the 2008 Beijing Olympics instead of the 10 that were originally planned to save money.

The plan was announced by the government Tuesday, less than a month after the International Olympic Committee requested China slow down construction in order to cut costs.

Liu Qi, president of the Beijing Olympics organizing committee, told the ruling Communist Party newspaper that construction should be "based on the principles of meticulous calculation and thriftiness."

Beijing has said it expects to spend \$24.2 billion on new subway lines, roads and other facilities by 2008.

Gelding DM Shicago wins \$2M sprint

RUIDOSO DOWNS, N.M. — DM Shicago, a 2-year-old gelding with a quirky name and a furious finish, ran the fastest 440 yards in the history of the All American Futurity to win the \$2 million sprint.

Ridden by Juan Vazquez, the gray broke near the lead in the run down the Ruidoso Downs straightaway, went to the front at about the halfway point and was pulling away when he hit the wire three-quarters of a length ahead of runner-up Take Off Jess.

DM Shicago went the 440 yards in 21 seconds, the fastest trip since that distance became the standard for the futurity 31 years ago.

Sports
briefs

Reign: Win is Singh's sixth of year

REIGN, FROM BACK PAGE

"It was a golf tournament to me. It wasn't about the ranking," said Singh, who has won the past nine times he took a lead into the final round. "It wasn't about going out there and trying to beat Tiger and beat the No. 1 player. I was out there trying to win the golf tournament and that was my goal starting out today."

"You know, Adam Scott nearly jumped up and took it away," he added, "but I was very focused."

Scott started the day seven strokes behind Singh before making the turn with four consecutive birdies to get into contention. He birdied the 18th hole to move into second place, and Woods' 69 matched him; John Rollins and Daniel Chopra were another two strokes back at minus 10.

Singh took a three-stroke lead into the final day and made it four when he dropped to 15 under with a birdie on the first hole.

But the lead withered over the front nine and disappeared when Woods chipped in for birdie on 12 and Singh went over the green with an 8-iron on 13, then missed a 7-footer to save par.



Tiger Woods had been No. 1 in the world golf ranking for a record 264 weeks. "That's not too bad, is it? I've had a good run," Woods said.

That left them tied at 13 under, with Scott one stroke back.

On 14, a 485-yard par 4, Woods and Singh were 6 inches apart on the green, about 9 feet from the pin. Singh sank his putt to save par, but Woods pushed his to the left for a bogey. On the par-5 15th their drives landed 6 yards apart on the fairway but Singh put his approach within 4 feet, and Woods was 17 feet from the flag; Singh picked up another birdie to drop to minus 14 and Woods

two-putted for par, leaving him two strokes back.

After making another birdie on 17 to expand his lead to three strokes, Singh smiled and seemed to relax. He acknowledged the cheers of the crowd for the first time all day.

"I made the putts that counted," said Singh, who birdied the last hole after missing a 22-foot putt for eagle. "The big putt was on 17. When I made that one, I said, 'That's it.'"

Yankees' call for forfeit a mile act

This might be the most vile, most despicable act of unsportsmanlike conduct ever committed by a professional sports franchise.

Monday, the New York Yankees actually had the audacity to ask the commissioner's office to

award them a forfeit victory because the Tampa Bay Devil Rays did not arrive in time for a scheduled start because of travel problems in Florida caused by Hurricane Frances.

Originally, the teams

were scheduled to play a double-header at 1 p.m. at Yankee Stadium. Due to the hurricane, the start time was pushed back two hours. Because of the Devil Rays' travel delays, the commissioner's office instructed the teams to play one game, beginning at 7 p.m., and said it would decide later when to reschedule the second game.

The Devil Rays arrived at Yankee Stadium at 6:05, and lost the game, 7-4.

"The rule states that if your team is here and ready to play, and the other team isn't here and not ready to play, there should be a forfeit, and we believe there should be a forfeit," Yankees President Randy Levine said.

The Yankees, who were at the stadium by noon, have taken issue that the Devil Rays waited until Monday morning to try to leave Tampa.

Bob DuPuy, the chief operating officer of the commissioner's office, said the Devil Rays were asked to investigate leaving Friday night or Saturday. DuPuy said Rays owner Vincent Naimoli told the commissioner's office his team was trying to make arrangements to leave Florida but couldn't.

Devil Rays General Manager Chuck LaMar said the team never intended to leave for New York until Sunday night or Monday.

"We decided, and we made the right decision, we'll stick by that decision, to stay with our families," LaMar said. "We wanted to stay in the Tampa Bay area, wait out the storm with our families."

Levine told reporters that if the facts as the Yankees understood them were true, then the game should be forfeited.

"There were plenty of opportunities to get out of Tampa on Saturday," Levine said. "The airports were open until 3 or 4 o'clock."

Fortunately, Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig doesn't appear as if he's going to give this farce of a request more than a moment's thought.

Given the stage of the season we are in, and the exciting pennant races, it is critical that we do everything to decide the champi-

onship on the field," Selig said in a statement.

Levine said if the forfeit request is denied, it should be rescheduled for Oct. 4, the day after the regular season, if it is needed for postseason purposes. He also said the Yankees might refuse to reschedule the game for this week even if ordered to do so.

Talk about giving new meaning to the term, "Damn Yankees." I know that technically, the Yankees have an argument, but for them to even suggest a forfeit at a time when Florida is just beginning to assess the damage caused by the second hurricane to hit it in three weeks shows a callousness that is difficult to comprehend even by New York standards.

Maybe Levine hasn't been paying attention to anything but the American League East standings, but here's some of the stuff Florida has gone through since Mother Nature unleashed her fury early Sunday morning.

The state had the largest evacuation in its history, with 47 of its 67 counties being affected. More than 100 people still were staying in shelters as of Monday. Estimated insured losses range from \$2 billion to \$10 billion.

Yet Levine is upset that a baseball game will be postponed.

Yes, the Yankees are correct when they say the Devil Rays could have come to New York earlier, especially on their Saturday and Sunday games against Detroit were postponed because of the pending arrival of Frances.

The Tigers left Tampa after their game Friday night. But most of Detroit's players don't make their homes in the Tampa/St. Petersburg region. Catcher Ivan Rodriguez is one who does, and he decided to stay home with his family and missed Monday's game against Kansas City in Detroit.

Can anyone blame him, or any other player who would do the same?

To ask the Devil Rays players to leave on Friday or Saturday was asking them to leave wives and children and homes with a hurricane on the horizon.

I know we sometimes think of professional athletes as being disassociated from the real world, but there is no fantasyland shelter from the pending reality of a hurricane. People die in hurricanes; lives are destroyed.

The idea that the Devil Rays would leave their families and homes before Frances makes landfall so they could make sure they were at Yankee Stadium in time for a baseball game Monday is preposterous.

There probably wasn't a thing any player could do against the fury of Frances, but I know if I were in that situation, I'd stay with my family as long as necessary. And if that meant missing a game, then so be it. I'd expect any person with a shred of human compassion to understand.

Shame on the Yankees for even bringing up such a thing, but I guess that franchise's shame is missing; just like its heart.

John Smallwood is a sports columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

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|---|----|----|------|-----|---------------|----|-----|------|-----|-----------------|----|-----|------|-----|---------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| East Division | | | | | West Division | | | | | East Division | | | | | West Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | | W | L | Pct | GB | | W | L | Pct | GB | | W | L | Pct | GB |
| New York | 62 | 38 | .618 | | Kansas City | 50 | 50 | .500 | | Atlanta | 62 | 38 | .618 | | Lob.-Cin. | 50 | 50 | .500 | |
| Boston | 58 | 42 | .580 | 2½ | Detroit | 48 | 60 | .444 | 10 | Florida | 50 | 50 | .500 | | Brewers | 48 | 60 | .444 | 10 |
| Chicago | 57 | 43 | .569 | 3 | Cleveland | 47 | 61 | .435 | 11 | Pittsburgh | 49 | 51 | .490 | 1 | Reds | 47 | 61 | .435 | 11 |
| Tampa Bay | 56 | 44 | .559 | 3½ | Minnesota | 46 | 62 | .429 | 12 | St. Louis | 48 | 54 | .471 | 2 | Phillies | 46 | 62 | .429 | 12 |
| Toronto | 50 | 50 | .500 | 9 | Los Angeles | 45 | 65 | .409 | 13 | San Francisco | 47 | 53 | .471 | 2 | Braves | 45 | 65 | .409 | 13 |
| Central Division | | | | | San Diego | 44 | 66 | .400 | 14 | Arizona | 46 | 54 | .460 | 2 | Padres | 44 | 66 | .400 | 14 |
| Minnesota | 60 | 40 | .600 | | Seattle | 43 | 67 | .391 | 15 | Colorado | 45 | 55 | .450 | 3 | Cincinnati | 43 | 67 | .391 | 15 |
| Cleveland | 57 | 43 | .569 | 7½ | San Francisco | 42 | 68 | .385 | 16 | San Diego | 44 | 56 | .444 | 3 | Montreal | 42 | 68 | .385 | 16 |
| Chicago | 61 | 39 | .610 | | Los Angeles | 41 | 69 | .371 | 17 | St. Louis | 43 | 57 | .433 | 3 | Pittsburgh | 41 | 69 | .371 | 17 |
| Philadelphia | 58 | 42 | .580 | 20½ | San Diego | 40 | 70 | .364 | 18 | Arizona | 42 | 58 | .420 | 3 | St. Louis | 40 | 70 | .364 | 18 |
| Oakland | 51 | 56 | .450 | 28½ | Seattle | 39 | 71 | .351 | 19 | Colorado | 41 | 59 | .409 | 3 | San Francisco | 39 | 71 | .351 | 19 |
| West Division | | | | | Kansas City | 38 | 72 | .344 | 20 | Los Angeles | 40 | 60 | .400 | 3 | San Francisco | 38 | 72 | .344 | 20 |
| Oakland | 58 | 56 | .509 | | Los Angeles | 37 | 73 | .338 | 21 | San Francisco | 39 | 61 | .392 | 3 | San Francisco | 37 | 73 | .338 | 21 |
| Seattle | 58 | 57 | .505 | 1 | San Diego | 36 | 74 | .328 | 22 | San Francisco | 38 | 62 | .385 | 3 | San Francisco | 36 | 74 | .328 | 22 |
| Texas | 54 | 54 | .500 | 6½ | San Diego | 35 | 75 | .316 | 23 | San Francisco | 37 | 63 | .370 | 3 | San Francisco | 35 | 75 | .316 | 23 |
| Monday's games | | | | | San Diego | 34 | 76 | .308 | 24 | San Francisco | 36 | 64 | .360 | 3 | San Francisco | 34 | 76 | .308 | 24 |
| Toronto 7, Kansas City 4 | | | | | San Diego | 33 | 77 | .300 | 25 | San Francisco | 35 | 65 | .353 | 3 | San Francisco | 33 | 77 | .300 | 25 |
| Baltimore 4, Minnesota 1 | | | | | San Diego | 32 | 78 | .292 | 26 | San Francisco | 34 | 66 | .346 | 3 | San Francisco | 32 | 78 | .292 | 26 |
| San Francisco 7, Texas 4 | | | | | San Diego | 31 | 79 | .284 | 27 | San Francisco | 33 | 67 | .330 | 3 | San Francisco | 31 | 79 | .284 | 27 |
| N.Y. Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 1, 1st game | | | | | San Diego | 30 | 80 | .276 | 28 | San Francisco | 32 | 68 | .324 | 3 | San Francisco | 30 | 80 | .276 | 28 |
| Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, ppd., travel | | | | | San Diego | 29 | 81 | .268 | 29 | San Francisco | 31 | 69 | .317 | 3 | San Francisco | 29 | 81 | .268 | 29 |
| 2nd game | | | | | San Diego | 28 | 82 | .260 | 30 | San Francisco | 30 | 70 | .300 | 3 | San Francisco | 28 | 82 | .260 | 30 |
| Wednesday's games | | | | | San Diego | 27 | 83 | .250 | 31 | San Francisco | 29 | 71 | .294 | 3 | San Francisco | 27 | 83 | .250 | 31 |
| Seattle 5, Oakland 3 | | | | | San Diego | 26 | 84 | .242 | 32 | San Francisco | 28 | 72 | .286 | 3 | San Francisco | 26 | 84 | .242 | 32 |
| Tuesday's games | | | | | San Diego | 25 | 85 | .235 | 33 | San Francisco | 27 | 73 | .273 | 3 | San Francisco | 25 | 85 | .235 | |
| Toronto at Chicago 1-1 | | | | | San Diego | 24 | 86 | .227 | 34 | San Francisco | 26 | 74 | .263 | 3 | San Francisco | 24 | 86 | .227 | |
| Chicago White Sox at Texas | | | | | San Diego | 23 | 87 | .217 | 35 | San Francisco | 25 | 75 | .250 | 3 | San Francisco | 23 | 87 | .217 | |
| Toronto at Anaheim | | | | | San Diego | 22 | 88 | .209 | 36 | San Francisco | 24 | 76 | .240 | 3 | San Francisco | 22 | 88 | .209 | |
| Boston at Oakland | | | | | San Diego | 21 | 89 | .202 | 37 | San Francisco | 23 | 77 | .233 | 3 | San Francisco | 21 | 89 | .202 | |
| Wednesday's games | | | | | San Diego | 20 | 90 | .190 | 38 | San Francisco | 22 | 78 | .222 | 3 | San Francisco | 20 | 90 | .190 | |
| Minnesota (Santana 16-0) at Baltimore | | | | | San Diego | 19 | 91 | .178 | 39 | San Francisco | 21 | 79 | .215 | 3 | San Francisco | 19 | 91 | .178 | |
| Lopez (11-2) at Kansas City | | | | | San Diego | 18 | 92 | .167 | 40 | San Francisco | 20 | 80 | .200 | 3 | San Francisco | 18 | 92 | .167 | |
| Chicago (Greinke 7-9) at Detroit | | | | | San Diego | 17 | 93 | .156 | 41 | San Francisco | 19 | 81 | .190 | 3 | San Francisco | 17 | 93 | .156 | |
| (Hajdu 1-2) at Kansas City | | | | | San Diego | 16 | 94 | .146 | 42 | San Francisco | 18 | 82 | .182 | 3 | San Francisco | 16 | 94 | .146 | |
| Los Angeles (Brazelton 6-0) at N.Y. Yankees | | | | | San Diego | 15 | 95 | .136 | 43 | San Francisco | 17 | 83 | .173 | 3 | San Francisco | 15 | 95 | .136 | |
| White Sox (Garland 10-10) at Texas | | | | | San Diego | 14 | 96 | .126 | 44 | San Francisco | 16 | 84 | .160 | 3 | San Francisco | 14 | 96 | .126 | |
| (Wadlin 23-9) at Seattle (Babe 1-1) | | | | | San Diego | 13 | 97 | .117 | 45 | San Francisco | 15 | 85 | .150 | 3 | San Francisco | 13 | 97 | .117 | |
| Los Angeles (Miller 2-3) at Anaheim (Escobar 9-9) | | | | | San Diego | 12 | 98 | .108 | 46 | San Francisco | 14 | 86 | .143 | 3 | San Francisco | 12 | 98 | .108 | |
| Pad Martinez (5-5) at Oakland (Hudson 11-4) | | | | | San Diego | 11 | 99 | .100 | 47 | San Francisco | 13 | 87 | .133 | 3 | San Francisco | 11 | 99 | .100 | |
| Thursday's games | | | | | San Diego | 10 | 100 | .091 | 48 | San Francisco | 12 | 88 | .125 | 3 | San Francisco | 10 | 100 | .091 | |
| Kansas City at Detroit | | | | | San Diego | 9 | 101 | .081 | 49 | San Francisco | 11 | 89 | .111 | 3 | San Francisco | 9 | 101 | .081 | |
| Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees | | | | | San Diego | 8 | 102 | .077 | 50 | San Francisco | 10 | 90 | .100 | 3 | San Francisco | 8 | 102 | .077 | |
| Toronto at Kansas City | | | | | San Diego | 7 | 103 | .067 | 51 | San Francisco | 9 | 91 | .090 | 3 | San Francisco | 7 | 103 | .067 | |
| Boston at St. Louis | | | | | San Diego | 6 | 104 | .058 | 52 | San Francisco | 8 | 92 | .080 | 3 | San Francisco | 6 | 104 | .058 | |
| AL wild card standings | | | | | San Diego | 5 | 105 | .048 | 53 | San Francisco | 7 | 93 | .070 | 3 | San Francisco | 5 | 105 | .048 | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | | W | L | Pct | GB | | W | L | Pct | GB | | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Boston | 78 | 58 | .574 | 4 | Chicago | 78 | 58 | .574 | 4 | Atlanta | 78 | 58 | .574 | 4 | Los Angeles | 78 | 58 | .574 | 4 |
| Anaheim | 74 | 64 | .534 | 8 | St. Louis | 74 | 64 | .534 | 8 | San Francisco | 74 | 64 | .534 | 8 | San Francisco | 74 | 64 | .534 | 8 |
| | | | | | San Diego | 70 | 70 | .500 | 14 | St. Louis | 70 | 70 | .500 | 14 | San Francisco | 70 | 70 | .500 | 14 |
| Monday | | | | | San Diego | 66 | 74 | .472 | 18 | St. Louis | 66 | 74 | .472 | 18 | San Francisco | 66 | 74 | .472 | 18 |
| Orioles 4, Twins 1 | | | | | San Diego | 62 | 78 | .442 | 22 | St. Louis | 62 | 78 | .442 | 22 | San Francisco | 62 | 78 | .442 | 22 |
| MINNESOTA BALTIMORE | | | | | San Diego | 58 | 82 | .415 | 26 | St. Louis | 58 | 82 | .415 | 26 | San Francisco | 58 | 82 | .415 | 26 |
| Shawder 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 54 | 86 | .384 | 30 | St. Louis | 54 | 86 | .384 | 30 | San Francisco | 54 | 86 | .384 | 30 |
| Thorpe 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 50 | 90 | .333 | 34 | St. Louis | 50 | 90 | .333 | 34 | San Francisco | 50 | 90 | .333 | 34 |
| Lindor 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 46 | 94 | .286 | 38 | St. Louis | 46 | 94 | .286 | 38 | San Francisco | 46 | 94 | .286 | 38 |
| Trifunovic 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 42 | 98 | .231 | 42 | St. Louis | 42 | 98 | .231 | 42 | San Francisco | 42 | 98 | .231 | 42 |
| Chapman 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 38 | 102 | .188 | 46 | St. Louis | 38 | 102 | .188 | 46 | San Francisco | 38 | 102 | .188 | 46 |
| Clayton 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 34 | 106 | .132 | 50 | St. Louis | 34 | 106 | .132 | 50 | San Francisco | 34 | 106 | .132 | 50 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 30 | 110 | .082 | 54 | St. Louis | 30 | 110 | .082 | 54 | San Francisco | 30 | 110 | .082 | 54 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 26 | 114 | .032 | 58 | St. Louis | 26 | 114 | .032 | 58 | San Francisco | 26 | 114 | .032 | 58 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 22 | 118 | .017 | 62 | St. Louis | 22 | 118 | .017 | 62 | San Francisco | 22 | 118 | .017 | 62 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 18 | 122 | .013 | 66 | St. Louis | 18 | 122 | .013 | 66 | San Francisco | 18 | 122 | .013 | 66 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 14 | 126 | .010 | 70 | St. Louis | 14 | 126 | .010 | 70 | San Francisco | 14 | 126 | .010 | 70 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 10 | 130 | .007 | 74 | St. Louis | 10 | 130 | .007 | 74 | San Francisco | 10 | 130 | .007 | 74 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 6 | 134 | .004 | 78 | St. Louis | 6 | 134 | .004 | 78 | San Francisco | 6 | 134 | .004 | 78 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 2 | 138 | .001 | 82 | St. Louis | 2 | 138 | .001 | 82 | San Francisco | 2 | 138 | .001 | 82 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 142 | .000 | 86 | St. Louis | 0 | 142 | .000 | 86 | San Francisco | 0 | 142 | .000 | 86 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 146 | .000 | 90 | St. Louis | 0 | 146 | .000 | 90 | San Francisco | 0 | 146 | .000 | 90 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 150 | .000 | 94 | St. Louis | 0 | 150 | .000 | 94 | San Francisco | 0 | 150 | .000 | 94 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 154 | .000 | 98 | St. Louis | 0 | 154 | .000 | 98 | San Francisco | 0 | 154 | .000 | 98 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 158 | .000 | 102 | St. Louis | 0 | 158 | .000 | 102 | San Francisco | 0 | 158 | .000 | 102 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 162 | .000 | 106 | St. Louis | 0 | 162 | .000 | 106 | San Francisco | 0 | 162 | .000 | 106 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 166 | .000 | 110 | St. Louis | 0 | 166 | .000 | 110 | San Francisco | 0 | 166 | .000 | 110 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 170 | .000 | 114 | St. Louis | 0 | 170 | .000 | 114 | San Francisco | 0 | 170 | .000 | 114 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 174 | .000 | 118 | St. Louis | 0 | 174 | .000 | 118 | San Francisco | 0 | 174 | .000 | 118 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 178 | .000 | 122 | St. Louis | 0 | 178 | .000 | 122 | San Francisco | 0 | 178 | .000 | 122 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 182 | .000 | 126 | St. Louis | 0 | 182 | .000 | 126 | San Francisco | 0 | 182 | .000 | 126 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 186 | .000 | 130 | St. Louis | 0 | 186 | .000 | 130 | San Francisco | 0 | 186 | .000 | 130 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 190 | .000 | 134 | St. Louis | 0 | 190 | .000 | 134 | San Francisco | 0 | 190 | .000 | 134 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 194 | .000 | 138 | St. Louis | 0 | 194 | .000 | 138 | San Francisco | 0 | 194 | .000 | 138 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 198 | .000 | 142 | St. Louis | 0 | 198 | .000 | 142 | San Francisco | 0 | 198 | .000 | 142 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 202 | .000 | 146 | St. Louis | 0 | 202 | .000 | 146 | San Francisco | 0 | 202 | .000 | 146 |
| Johnson 4, 2nd 0 | | | | | San Diego | 0 | 206 | .000 | 150 | St. Louis | 0 | 206 | .0 | | | | | | |

Astros' Backe pitches in at plate

Unlikely home run powers Houston to 10th straight win

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The crowd was on its feet, beckoning the latest slugging surprise in the Houston Astros' vaunted offense to re-emerge from the dugout.

Already seething and oblivious to the cheers, Brandon Backe didn't stir from his daze until his teammates nudged him back outside.

"I was just excited thinking about the home run," said the 26-year-old pitcher, who was making only his fourth career start.

"I was going to go down and sit in my little hole, but they told me to get out there."

Backe hit his first career homer, a two-run shot, and allowed one run in seven innings to keep the Astros in the thick of the NL wild-card chase with an 11-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday — their season-high 10th straight victory.

Jeff Bagwell, Lance Berkman and Jeff Kent also homered for Houston, on its longest win streak in five years. The Astros have won 18 of 21 since Aug. 15, the best record in the majors during that stretch.

The Astros are third in the NL wild-card race, 1½ games behind Chicago and one game behind San Francisco. Houston, a season-high 11 games over .500 at 74-63, hasn't been within striking range of the Cubs and Giants in more than three months.

"They are not missing anything at the plate," Reds manager Dave Wiley said. "I think you made a mistake, they hit it and they hit it hard."

Backe (3-2) virtually shut down the Reds after giving up three hits and a run-scoring single to Angelo Jimenez in the first. He gave up only four singles from them, finishing with a career-high eight strikeouts and a walk.

But it was Backe's performance at the plate that was the biggest surprise.

Backe went 2-for-2 with a walk, including the two-run shot in the fourth that gave Houston a 5-1 lead.

"It was my big dream to be a hitter in the major leagues," said Backe, who was drafted



Houston Astros pitcher Brandon Backe, left, is greeted at home plate by teammate Jose Vizcaino after hitting a two-run home run against the Cincinnati Reds in the fourth inning Monday in Houston. Backe allowed one run in seven innings and the Astros won 11-5.

by Tampa Bay in 1998 as a second baseman. "I never thought I'd be a pitcher. My hitting skills are still there. I practice all the time behind closed doors."

The crowd of 40,581 gave Backe a standing ovation as he rounded the bases and didn't stop the cheers until he came out from the dugout to doff his cap. It was the first homer by an Astros pitcher since Ron Villone did it against the Reds on Aug. 15, 2003.

"I asked [manager Phil] Garner, 'Did we just win the World Series or what?'" Berkman said. "I didn't know what was going on."

Said catcher Brad Ausmus: "I just wanted to make sure he didn't get too full of himself after that home run. I've played for over 11 years and I've never had a certain call."

Houston's powerful offense did the rest.

The Astros, who've averaged nearly 10 runs a game during their win streak, roughed up Reds starter Aaron Harang for the second time in six days.

Harang (8-8) allowed seven runs on nine hits, including four homers, in four innings for his fifth loss in six decisions. Harang also gave up four homers in an 8-0 loss to Houston last week.

"I was listening to their TV announcers and they said somebody is going to have to throw an absolute gem of a game to stop them and get them out of their rhythm," Harang said. "I agree. And I don't see that happening."

The Astros have won six straight against the Reds, outscoring them 54-16 during that stretch.

Extra days off revitalize Cubs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Four days off suited Aramis Ramirez just fine.

Ramirez hit a pair of two-run homers and Carlos Zambrano allowed four hits in eight innings to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 9-1 victory over the Montreal Expos on Monday.

Mark Grudzielanek, Derek Lee and Michael Barrett also homered for the Cubs, who played their first game since Wednesday's 2-1 extra-inning victory at Montreal. The Cubs had their third three games against the Florida Marlins at Miami postponed because of Hurricane Frances.

Ramirez took advantage off the long weekend to rest his sore left groin, which has been bothering him since July. "I feel a lot better. I'm not a 100 percent, but the four days off really helped my groin," Ramirez said.

The Cubs took a half-game lead over idle San Francisco in the NL wild-card race.

Padres 7, Cardinals 3: Ryan Klesko singled in the go-ahead run with none out in the eighth inning, and San Diego ended visiting St. Louis' nine-game winning streak.

With the score tied at 3 and the bases loaded in the eighth, Klesko hit a chopper over the head of first baseman Albert Pujols to score Ramon Vazquez. The Padres quickly blew it open against reliever Cal Eldred (3-1). Khalil Greene followed with a sacrifice fly, Terrence Long had a pinch-hit RBI single, and another run scored on the play on a throwing error by Pujols.

Braves 3, Phillies 1: Replacement starter Travis Smith pitched five solid innings, and Andrew Jones homered again for the Braves, who won for the 12th time in 14 games. Smith (1-3) got the start at Turner Field when Mike Hampton couldn't go because of a stiff neck.

Brewers 9, Pirates 5: Brady Clark drove in four runs, and visiting Milwaukee scored six times in the third inning. Gary Glover (1-0) won in his Brewers debut.

Tardy Devil Rays given chilly reception in Bronx

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Yankees went to just about anything to hold off the surging Boston Red Sox.

They even tried asking the commissioner's office to award them a forfeit victory. When that didn't work, they moved Alex Rodriguez to the No. 2 spot in the batting order.

Rodriguez came through with his first hit with the bases loaded in over a year and the Yankees beat tardy Tampa Bay 7-4 Monday night, after the teams' day doubleheader was turned into a night game when the Devil Rays were delayed in Florida by Hurricane Frances.

"It's kind of fun hitting behind Jeter and in front of Sheffield," Rodriguez said, referring to Derek Jeter and Gary Sheffield. "It's a good opportunity to be. Hopefully, we'll generate a lot of runs."

New York's day began at 11

a.m., when the train arrived at Yankee Stadium expecting to play two. The Devil Rays' charter didn't even take off until five minutes before the doubleheader was scheduled to start at 3 p.m. Major League Baseball then switched it to a single night game at 7 p.m., just an hour after the Devil Rays arrived at the ballpark.

The Yankees asked the commissioner's office to award them a forfeit, a request commissioner Bud Selig made clear he would reject.

Rodriguez hit a three-run double for his first bases-loaded hit since July 2003 and helped Orlando Hernandez (7-0) win his seventh straight decision. A-Rod was 0-for-10 in such situations this season.

"He looked more aggressive," said Yankees manager Joe Torre, who considered the move for three weeks. "We'll continue to do it as long as it seems comfortable."

AL Roundup

Doug Waechter (3-7) took the loss for Tampa Bay, which played without Aubrey Huff. Huff couldn't get from his home, which is in a low-lying area, to Tropicana Field.

"We want the police over," Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella said. "And we still couldn't get him out."

Red Sox 8, Athletics 3: Boston won for the 12th time in 13 games by beating baseball's best home team to open a seven-game road trip.

Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz paired up to hit consecutive homers for the sixth time this season, and Ortiz added a three-run double to keep the Red Sox 2½ games behind the Yankees in the AL East.

Bronson Arroyo (8-9) pitched 6½ strong innings to win his third straight decision, and Bill Mueller and Dave Roberts each hit RBI doubles in the seventh to give the Red Sox a 4-2 lead.

Barry Zito (10-10), the loser in Game 5 of the AL division series last year against Boston, took the loss.

Orioles 4, Twins 1: At Baltimore, Daniel Cabrera (11-7) pitched three-hit ball into the eighth inning, and Jose Leon and Melvin Mora had two RBIs apiece to lead the surging Orioles to their seventh win in eight games.

Jorge Julio worked the ninth for his 21st save.

Terry Mulholland (4-8) gave up four runs and nine hits in five-plus innings.

Tigers 7, Royals 3: Craig Monroe homered and Omar Infante drove in three runs at Comerica Park to break six strong innings from Wil Ledezma (4-2).

The Tigers' second straight win was their 63rd of the season, preventing them from their third straight 100-loss season.

White Sox 7, Rangers 4: Carl Everett homered and visiting Chicago took advantage of Texas' season-high five errors to win its fourth straight.

Jason Grilli (1-1) gave up three runs and eight hits in 5½ innings. Shingo Takatsu got two outs for his 17th save.

Michael Young homered for the fourth time in three games for Texas.

Indians 5, Mariners 0: C.C. Sabathia (11-9) threw a five-hitter for his second career shutout and Omar Vizquel hit a two-run homer to lead Cleveland to a victory at Safeco Field.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki went 2-for-4, getting singles in the third and ninth innings to push his season hits total to 226.

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Tiger's reign is over

Singh's Boston tee party dumps Woods out of golf's top spot

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass.

As the son of an airplane technician in Fiji, as a teaching pro in Borneo, even as a plodding player on the PGA Tour early in his career, Vijay Singh could only guess what he could accomplish as a golfer.

"I never thought I would be sitting here, the best player in the world right now," Singh said after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship on Monday to clinch the No. 1 spot in the world rankings that Tiger Woods had held for a record 264 consecutive weeks.

"It feels great. All of the hard work and all that I've come through, all of the people that have helped me — I'd like to thank them. Obviously, it's been a journey and something that cannot be forgotten."

Singh shot 69 to beat Woods and defending champion Adam Scott by three strokes, birdieing three of the last four holes to earn \$900,000 and pad his lead atop golf's money list. It was Singh's sixth victory of the year — four more than the tour's next biggest winner, and enough to convince the computers that crunch the numbers what many have feared for months.

"Finally it's turned into my favor," Singh said. "I finally achieved what I wanted to do, starting at the beginning of the year."

Woods had been No. 1 since Aug. 15, 1999, under the rankings that consider performance over the past two years, factoring in the strength of field. Singh had wonwood Woods' lead to 12.09-11.91 heading into the Deutsche Bank, needing only to finish ahead of Woods to pass him.

Woods' second place was his eighth top 10 finish in his past 10 tournaments, and his sixth in the top five. But the new numbers released Monday night had Singh at 12.72 points to Woods' 12.27, ending Woods' five-year reign atop golf's ultimate leaderboard.

"That's not too bad, is it? I've had a good run," Woods said. "I'm not disappointed about the ranking; I'm disappointed in not winning. ... Winning takes care of the ranking."

Singh and Woods were tied at 13 under after Singh bogeyed the 13th hole, but Woods bogeyed the next one, and Singh birdied No. 15 to pull ahead by two strokes. The 41-year-old Fijian added birdies on the final two holes at the par-71, 7,415 TPC of Boston to finish 16 under, three ahead of Woods and Scott.

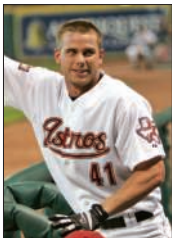
SEE REIGN ON PAGE 29



Vijay Singh smiles at Tiger Woods as they shake hands on the 18th green after Singh won the Deutsche Bank Championship on Monday by three strokes over Woods and Adam Scott. Singh's victory, his sixth of the year, ended Woods' reign as the No. 1-ranked golfer in the world. Woods had been No. 1 for more than five years — a record 264 consecutive weeks.



Petrova ousts top-seeded Henin-Hardenne; Hewitt advances
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Backe's first career home run helps Astros win 10th straight
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Chargers pick Brees over Rivers, Dolphins stick with Fiedler to start at QB for openers
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Yankees denied forfeit request, beat tardy Devil Rays once Page 31